

Hafa Adai!

Manglona's nomination resubmitted to NM Tech, Cruz's, Rohringer's withdrawn. **PAGE 2**  
CAO launches Project Regalu/Liffang. **PAGE 3**

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**TO ADDRESS \$77.8M UTILITY ARREARS**

## CUC, gov't agree to payment plan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Betty G. Terlaje disclosed yesterday that CUC and the CNMI government have agreed to allow a payment plan to address the government's utility billing arrears, which has now ballooned to a whopping \$77.8 million.

*See CUC on Page 4*



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Betty T. Terlaje talks about CUC and the government's payment plan to address the government's utility billing arrears during the CUC board special meeting yesterday.

### DPS postpones academy due to budget constraints

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has officially reported that it will not be pursuing an

*See DPS on Page 4*



Macaranas

## Travilla testifies at BOOST hearing, Flores moves to find him in contempt



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In this screengrab from YouTube, Robert Travilla, right, testifies before the House of Representatives special committee that is investigating the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability grant program. Next to Travilla is his counsel, Joseph Horey.

### INSIDE



#### SUPPLEMENT

Saipan Tribune celebrates International Women's Day with a special supplement.

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#### BUSINESS

For the month of March, try a different kind of sandwich—the classic Reuben sandwich at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

A jury convicted a movie weapons supervisor of involuntary manslaughter Wednesday in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by actor Alec Baldwin during a rehearsal on the set of the Western movie "Rust."

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# Local

Manglona's nomination resubmitted to NMTech, Cruz's, Rohringer's withdrawn

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Palacios

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has resubmitted the nomination of Chanelle A. Manglona to serve as a member of the board of trustees for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to represent Rota.

Due to time constraints, Palacios has also withdrawn the nomination of Jose P. Cruz and Dr. Martin P. Rohringer to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission and Healthcare Professions Licensing Board, respectively.

On Manglona's nomination, the governor said the statutory employment restriction imposed by the Commonwealth Code, which prohibits government employees from serving as a board member of the NMTI Board of Trustees, places an undue burden as it limits the pool of otherwise qualified potential appointees from Rota.

Palacios said he is waiving such restriction as authorized by the Commonwealth Code.

The governor said he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident in Manglona's ability to serve on the board and contribute to NMTI's

growth as a provider of advanced career, trades, and technical training throughout the Commonwealth.

If confirmed by the Senate, Manglona will serve a four-year term expiring on March 11, 2028.

On Cruz's and Rohringer's nomination, Palacios said, due to time constraints he made a difficult decision to withdraw the names of their appointees.

Cruz was appointed to represent Tinian in the Civil Service Commission, while Rohringer was renominated to represent physicians in the Health Care Professions Licensing Board.

Palacios said he will resubmit Rohringer's re-nomination at a later time.

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# CAO launches Project Regalu/Liffang

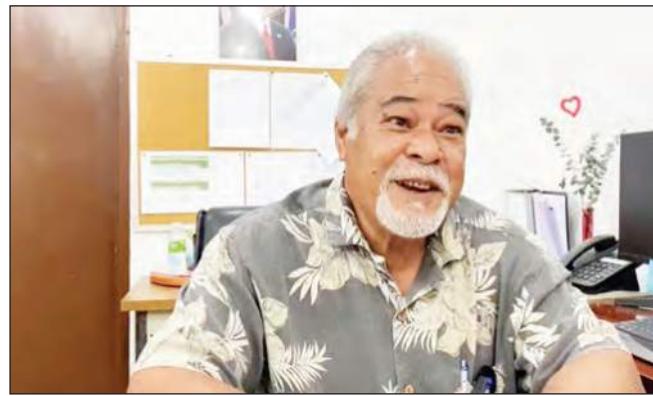
By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the sole purpose of preserving the local culture and traditions in the CNMI, the Carolinian Affairs Office has launched Project Regalu/Liffang, its most recent effort to promote Chamorro and Carolinian culture to visitors while giving local vendors and artists an opportunity to directly

sell their products to visitors.

Felix Nogis, executive assistant to the Carolinian Affairs Office, is encouraging members of the community and CNMI visitors to participate in CAO's most recent projects; Project Regalu/Liffang, that is held every other Sunday (the Sunday following government payday).

Project Regalu/Liffang, which was officially opened to



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Felix Nogis, executive assistant to the Carolinian Affairs Office, is encouraging members of the community and CNMI visitors to check out Project Regalu/Liffang this Sunday from 5pm to 9:30pm at the Carolinian Utt area in Garapan.

## Dems on Tinian and Rota energized for Democratic presidential primary

Tinian and Rota are witnessing historic numbers with a greater number of participants in this year's NMI Democratic primary than ever before. "Back in 2020, there were a total of 15 votes combined for both Tinian and Rota, so we are very pleased to see an increase in the voter turnout in the first three days of early voting," said NMI Democratic Party chair Jonathan P. Cabrera.

"Every vote counts. Let's come out and vote," said Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) who exercised his right to vote yesterday on Rota.

The Guata Beach Park Pavilion on Rota is open for early voting from 9am to 6pm from now until March 11, and on the final day of March 12 from 8am to 12pm.

Tinian Fuel Services Inc.  
See DEMS on Page 4

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the public two Sundays ago, is open this Sunday from 5pm to 9:30pm and will be held at the Carolinian Utt area in Garapan.

According to Nogis, the intent of the event funded by CAO is to promote the CNMI's culture and traditions while also allowing local artists to sell their products directly to visitors.

"The event highlights our food, and it gives our local artists and craftsmen an opportunity to sell their products directly to locals and visitors alike. We encourage our people to come and join and avail

of the local food and products that are being sold and see the arts and crafts made by our local artists," he said.

Nogis shared that Project Regalu/Liffang stems from the Carolinian community's desire to preserve the local culture and traditions while also giving visitors a taste of it.

"One of the major concerns of visitors coming to our island is not only do they want to taste genuine, local foods; but they also want to look at the crafts produced locally. In addition, [we wanted to showcase] the entertainment section

where local dancers are able to perform. In all these efforts, it's our goal to perpetuate our culture and traditions within the Northern Marianas. We want to market the event so people understand the purpose and what the goal is," he said.

On the first Sunday, the CAO provided three tents for vendors with each tent able to fit four vendors.

Nogis said the soft opening of the event turned out great with all the tents full.

The CAO executive assistant continues to encourage local vendors to join and sell their products during the event. The catch though, vendors must sell genuine local

food/arts.

"Vendors who are interested can call the CAO office. One of the requirements is that these vendors provide genuine, local food. We don't want commercial vendors coming in and just going against our intent to promote our local products. I encourage our people and visitors alike to come and participate. It's a worthwhile cause," he said.

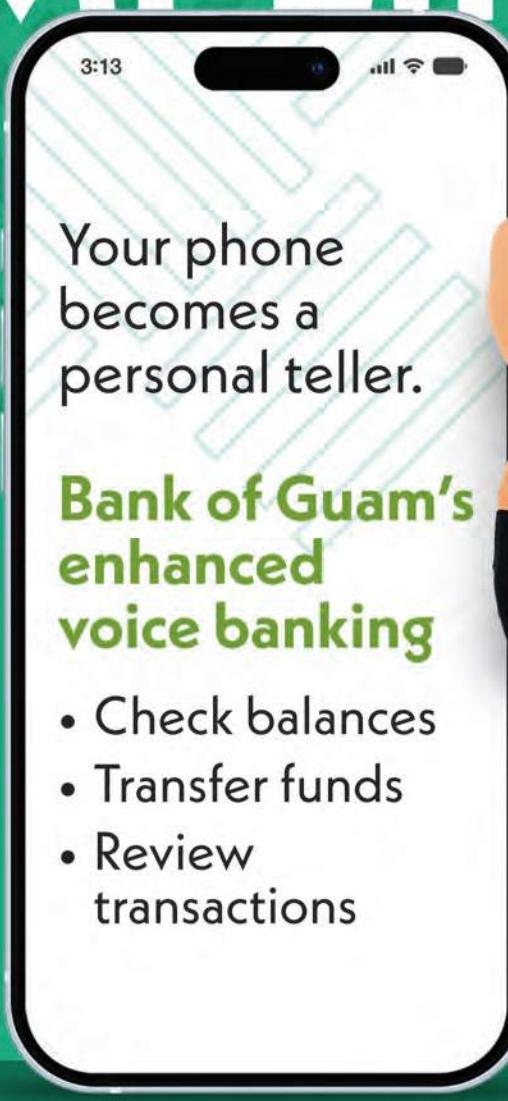
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# Echoes of Time a cappella concert a success

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The Echoes of Time a cappella concert headlined by DYN-

MX last Saturday at the Marianas High School cafeteria was a rip-roaring success.

The concert comprised of two acts featuring not only

songs from DYNMX, but also performances from MHS glee club Rhythm 'N Harmony, Profound Bandits, and Marianas Got Talent Season 1 sing-

ers Donovan Castro, Arriane Antonio, Bernice Sabino, and Lorenzy Leo.

Donna Bartolo directed the concert with Brent Espineda



CHRYSSTAL MARINO

A cappella group DYNMX and Marianas High School's Rhythm N' Harmony joined together for a breathtaking a cappella performance of MUNA's "I Know A Place," during DYNMX's Echoes of Time concert last Saturday at the Marianas High School Saipan cafeteria in Susupe.

## TRAVILLA

From page 1

grant program.

Travilla repeatedly invoked his Fifth Amendment right, which protects people from self-incrimination, in response to many questions from members of the Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding. He declined to answer questions upon the advice of his counsel, Joseph Horey.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), did not act on Rep. Marissa Renee Flores' (Ind-Saipan) motion to find Travilla in con-

tempt and asked the witness and his counsel, Horey, to report back today, Friday, at 10am.

In offering the motion to find Travilla in contempt, Flores said the witness has repeatedly been asked questions and has repeatedly refused to testify under oath.

Flores further moved that the committee transmit a report to the House and have House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) send a statement of contempt to the Attorney General's Office for further prosecution in the CNMI court of law.

Before offering the motion, Flores presented, among other documents, showing that from

Aug. 11, 2022 to Dec. 12, 2022, Nonstop Corp., which Travilla is the vice president, was paid a total of \$323,415.

"Now sir, you could imagine why you are here. Am I right?" Flores told Travilla.

Travilla, and Nonstop Corp. president Salina Sapp, and Shayne Villanueva, of Roil Soil, were in charge of marketing the BOOST Program. The committee had already found Villanueva in contempt for refusing to answer questions.

At the start of the hearing yesterday, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) presented Travilla's declaration dated Dec. 14, 2023 in which Travilla attests that he does not have

in his possession, custody or control any record of any BOOST-related communications between Nonstop Corp. and William Mendiola Castro, any invoices, or proof of payments to, subcontractors used for BOOST.

Castro used to serve as chief of staff of then-governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Travilla agreed with Attao that he does not have any additional communications to include emails, text messages, or WhatsApp messages between him and Castro.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## PROBABLE

From page 1

Feb. 19, at around 4:34pm, from an off-duty officer about an incident at the AJ Poker in San Antonio. At the scene, the victim alleged that Sanchez became physical with her.

In a follow-up interview with the victim, she told investigators that Sanchez, who

is her former boyfriend, had called to tell her he wants to beat up her new boyfriend and that he was outside the new boyfriend's home.

The victim said she ended the call with Sanchez, but he allegedly continued to call, which eventually annoyed her so she sent him a message telling him that she was at the AJ Poker in San Antonio.

Later, while waiting for

a friend to pick her up from the poker arcade, Sanchez allegedly showed up and smacked her forehead, causing her hat to fall off.

The victim said this led her to threaten to call the police and, as she was trying to call 911, Sanchez allegedly grabbed her phone and threw it against a nearby wall. Sanchez then allegedly pushed her, pinned

her against a nearby wall, and wrapped his right hand around her neck.

The victim noted to police that she tried to call for help but she allegedly could not breathe. Soon after, Sanchez let go of her neck, shoved her, and walked away.

The victim also told police that Sanchez strangled her in February 2023, until she became unconscious.

officers," he said.

Although a police academy is no longer in the works for this year, Macaranas said with budget hearings coming up, he intends to submit a request for funding for more officers.

"Since the budget hearing is coming up, we're submitting our budget request for next year soon which includes a request for funding to hire more people," he said.

Fortunately, Macaranas said he is still able to sustain community services with the manpower currently available whilst refraining from incurring overtime expenses.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## DPS

From page 1

academy this year despite the need for more officers due to budget constraints.

In an interview with DPS acting commissioner Anthony Macaranas, he said he has decided not to pursue a police academy this year, as initially planned by former commissioner Clement Bermudes, due to budget constraints.

The department's FY 2024 budget is about \$6.5 million.

Macaranas noted that initially, funding was identified to hire police cadets, but the funding would only be able to put about eight cadets through the program. However, due to

a threshold requirement of 10 students per academy at the Northern Marianas College, Macaranas said he has decided to wait until more funding is available.

"I have made the decision not to move forward with the academy because... of our funding issue. I do have limited funding to set up a cop's program that would guarantee me only eight people. However, because I need to put them through the Northern Marianas College, I need to meet the threshold of the college's minimum which is 10 students, but I can only afford eight right now. In the coming future, I'm going to put a request for funding for the cop's program to try and

get funding to hire more police officers," he said.

Although there is an option to have the police academy in conjunction with the Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency, or WIA, Macaranas explained that there's still the issue of hiring these permanently which he claims DPS just doesn't have the funds for.

"There were talks on [having the academy] by going through the WIA process. The only thing I'm concerned about is that once they graduate, I have to commit to taking these officers. However, if I don't have the money, these officers are going to be in limbo. I have to first secure funding to get and sustain these

co-directing.

One of the magical moments of the concert happened when DYNMX—made up of MHS glee club alumni—joined MHS Rhythm N' Harmony for several numbers.

Espineda shared that he was grateful for the turnout and thanked all the support shown.

"It was perfect and DYNMX is so proud of how the concert turned out considering that we worked so hard to bring our vision to life. Echoes of Time was a complete success. It was quite unexpected to receive messages from people I never met saying that the concert was amazing. I also

heard feedback from people who aren't even interested in a cappella saying, 'It was the best concert I've watched!'"

Harold Easton, MHS Rhythm N' Harmony advisor and MHS teacher, said "It's really good to see that they still have the enthusiasm and talent they all demonstrated when they were part of Rhythm N' Harmony. Members of this group go back as far as 2015 and it shows the consistency and the strength of the organization."

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## CUC

From page 1

central government in reconciling the accounts.

"So right off the bat they will pay \$400,000 by April 1 and then we will reconcile the first 15 accounts, top 15 accounts," she said.

Terlaje said once they reconciled, the government will make payment of 25% of arrears 30 days later.

By June 1, the next 50 accounts will be reconciled and payment of 25% arrears 30 days later.

By July 1, the next 50 accounts will be reconciled and there will be payment of 35% arrears 30 days later.

By Aug. 1, the next 50 accounts will be reconciled and there will be payment of 25% arrears 30 days later.

By Sept. 1, the rest of accounts will be reconciled and there will be payment of 25% arrears 30 days later.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## DEMS

From page 3

is also open for early voting on Tinian and hosts the same polling times as Rota from now until March 12.

Tinian resident Jose Kiyoshi urged Tinian residents to participate in the Democratic Presidential Primary. "Come out, cast your ballot, and participate in this democratic process that gives us a chance to choose who will be the Democratic presidential nominee. We need a Democratic president whose philosophy and values comport with our own. A Democrat in the White House is good news for the Northern Marianas Islands."

Both Rota and Tinian polling sites will be closed on Sunday, March 10.

The Saipan polling site—Suite 106, BENCAM Building, Garapan—is open for early voting from now until Monday, March 11, from 10am to 7pm. On March 12,

voting will take place at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 8am to 6pm.

Democrats and registered voters of the NMI who would like to participate in the primary are encouraged to get out and vote. Individuals who will be eligible to vote on or before Nov. 5, 2024, will be able to visit any of the polling sites, present their valid I.D. (e.g. license and/or passport) and cast their vote for their Democratic Presidential Candidate of choice, and for their preferred delegates.

Results from this year's primary will be announced shortly after the Saipan polling site closes at 6pm and all the ballots have been counted. According to Cabrera, "If everything goes smoothly, we anticipate the final numbers no later than 6:30pm on March 12."

To view the FAQ's for this year's primary and for more information visit [www.nmidems.org](http://www.nmidems.org), or call (670) 484-DEMS (3367). (PR)

# Commerce asks businesses, organizations to take part in '24 PWS

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division, will begin data collection activities for the 2024 CNMI Prevailing Wage Study that will be used to produce the CNMI hourly wage statistics for 2024.

All private businesses, public agencies, and organizations, regardless of number of employees, are urged to participate in the 2024 PWS survey. The survey data collection period began on March 1, 2024, and ends on March 15, 2024.

Like the 2023 PWS, the 2024 PWS data is submitted through a web portal. Busi-

nesses and organizations can access the portal through <http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/dev/>.

Individuals who registered and participated in the 2023 PWS survey can use their username and password that they used in 2023 to log in to the portal and update their business/agency/organization information and submit their employee data for 2024. First time users of the portal will be asked to create an account.

The 2018 NMI U.S. Workforce Act requires the CNMI to publish a prevailing wage report annually for CW1 visa

determination and approval by the U.S. Department of Labor. Additionally, the 2024 PWS data will be used to publish a separate report detailing the survey methodology with more detailed occupational wage statistics for PERM, H-1B and H-2B determination and approval by the U.S. Department of Labor.

"We ask all businesses, agencies, and organizations to complete this important survey," Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said. "I also want to extend my appreciation to the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for its support in

funding this project."

Commerce acting secretary Remedio C. Mafnas emphasized the importance of completing the survey. She stated, "I thank our private business partners, and stakeholders, and the public agen-

cies on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian for putting the word out to promote the successful completion of this important survey. I humbly ask all businesses, agencies, and organizations in the CNMI to take time to complete the 2024

PWS survey."

Questions and inquiries for the 2024 PWS should be directed to the Prevailing Wage Study project at telephone numbers (670) 322-3005/3007 or email address [cnmi.csd@commerce.gov.mp](mailto:cnmi.csd@commerce.gov.mp). (PR)

## Energy Division to distribute portable solar-powered table-top fans on Rota

The Department of Public Works, Energy Division Office, will be hosting its 2024 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Community Outreach Awareness Campaign and Distribution Program to distribute portable solar-powered table-top fans on the island of Rota.

The Energy Division, in conjunction with its Energy Education, Efficiency, and Conservation Program efforts, will be distributing one portable solar-powered table-top fans per residential household to assist residential consumers reduce the energy consumption and cost of their homes and to educate the community about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation efforts in the CNMI.

The portable solar-powered tabletop fans will be available for distribution on

a first-come, first-serve basis throughout the specified time, while supplies last. The event will be a drive-thru distribution event and will be held tomorrow, March 9, 2024, at the Rota Man Amko Center in Simapalo from 9am to 1pm.

To avail of portable solar-powered table-top fans, residential households must present a copy of a valid government-issued identification card and a copy of a most recent utility bill with the name on the account. If consumers are renting, please provide a copy of the lease or rental agreement along with the utility bill. If the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. account is under the landlord's name, a copy of the landlord's valid government-issued identification card must be provided.

If a residential homeowner with a CUC account holder's

name is unable to make it to the event, a homeowner may designate an authorized person to obtain a portable solar-powered table-top fan.

However, an authorization letter must be issued by the homeowner designating a person authorized to obtain the portable solar-powered table-top fans, along with a copy of a valid government-issued ID of the account holder and the designated person authorized must be provided to obtain the portable solar-powered table-top fans. Businesses, rental property owners, and/or landlords are not eligible to receive the portable solar-powered table-top fans.

For additional questions or information regarding this event, contact Maile Iakopo, reporting specialist, at (670) 664-4480/4. (PR)



### EDUCATION OFFICIALS IN DC

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Angel Cardona, center, joins Public School System Commissioner of Education Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, left, and key officials from the Council of Chief State School Officers that includes the board of directors, among others, past CCSSO president superintendent Kirsten Baesler of Northern Dakota and Superintendent Dr. Christina Grant of District of Columbia. The CCSSO is the organization of head departments for all of the nation's elementary and secondary education.

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# Kilili announces 2024 NMCI Congressional Art Competition

**WASHINGTON, D.C.—** Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP) invites high school students in the Northern Mariana Islands to participate in the 16th Annual Congressional Art Competition for an opportunity to have their artwork publicly displayed at the U.S. Capitol for one year.

"This is the 16th year that the Northern Mariana Islands will have one of our student's artwork showcased at the Capitol," Sablan said. "I have seen some amazing artwork from our talented students over the

years and I have no doubt that this year will be the same."

The art competition is free and open to all high school students. Students have until Friday, April 19, 2024, to submit their artwork via delivery or mail to one of the congressional district offices on Saipan, Rota, or Tinian, which are open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Congressional Art Competition rules require that submitted artwork be original, two-dimensional works. Eligible artwork includes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

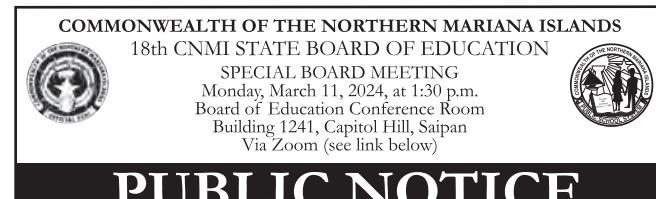
Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) with 2023 Congressional Art Competition winner Junseo Kim and his winning artwork "Bird of the Sea" displayed at the Capitol.

paintings, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media art, computer-generated art, and photography. Artwork must also be suitable for public display.

This year's submissions will be judged based on originality, technical difficulty, creativity, communication, effectiveness, and overall appearance. A panel of local artists will select the winning entry.

Aside from having their work displayed in the Capitol, the winner will also be invited to the national reception held in Washington, DC.

Contest guidelines and student release forms are available at <https://sablan.house.gov/serving-you/art-competition>. For more information, contact the congressional office at (670) 323-2647 or [Kili@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kili@mail.house.gov). (PR)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

- I. Preliminary
  - 1. Call to Order
  - 2. Roll Call
  - 3. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments<sup>2</sup>
- III. Unfinished Business
- IV. New Business
  - 1. Financial Status Reports
    - a. Federal
    - b. Local
  - 2. Library Month Proclamation – April 2024
  - 3. Funding for Hopwood Middle School modular classrooms
  - 4. Update on Plans for Fiscal Cliff
  - 5. SY 24-25 School Calendar (K-12)
  - 6. April 2024 Statewide Professional Development Plan
  - 7. FY2025 Proposed Budget
  - 8. Revisit the Organizational Chart (Employee duties and responsibilities)
- V. Executive Session<sup>3</sup>
  - a. Legal Updates
  - b. Personnel
  - c. Other matters
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Discussion of the Agenda for the next Board Meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

<sup>1</sup>Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/97550256700?pwd=VTZ1K3VSVWNFOhDT1pJbGF3TE02Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 975 5025 6700  
Passcode: 187579

<sup>2</sup>Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments. zoom.us

<sup>3</sup>Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) | Website: <http://www.nmhgov.net>  
Tels: (670) 234-9447 | 234-6866 | 234-7670 | Fax: (670) 234-9021

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by the NMHC with HUD funds.

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS 03/08/2024

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan MP, 96950  
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 25, 2024, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Mountain View Estates	Affordable Rental Housing	Carolinas Heights, Tinian	Approximately \$800,000.00 of CDBG-DR funds; no other funds are to be used.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at [www.nmhgov.net](http://www.nmhgov.net) or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at [www.cnmi-cdbqdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbqdr.com); or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). All comments received by March 25, 2024, 4:00 p.m. will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of fund and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRISI Division Director, HUD, via email at [Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov](mailto:Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov) or via telephone (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/  
Arnold I. Palacios  
Governor of the CNMI

**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
MUSEUM  
OF HISTORY & CULTURE**

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

## Executive Director Wanted

Are you passionate about preserving and promoting the rich history and culture of the Northern Mariana Islands? Do you possess the leadership skills to steer a dynamic museum towards excellence? If so, we want to hear from you!

Go to [www.nmimuseum.org](http://www.nmimuseum.org) to view Examination Announcement No. 24-030 and submit an Application for Employment by March 11, 2024.

For more information, contact Archie Ajoste, [archie.ajoste@gmail.com](mailto:archie.ajoste@gmail.com), or 670-664-2160.

# Municipal council, Seisa, MHS honors Japan-Saipan student exchange founder

The 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council held a ceremony at the Grandviro Resort Saipan last week to honor the late Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa, who founded the Japan-Saipan Bridge of Peace and Goodwill and Participate & Learn Program.

The ceremony honoring Miyazawa was attended by Japan's Seisa High School principal Hajime Kaneko, Seisa Study Abroad Program director Kuniko, and Marianas High School principal Jonathan Aguon and vice principal Romolo Orsini.

The Japan-Saipan exchange student program Miyazawa founded is a secondary study abroad platform that allows students from Japan to visit Saipan and students from Saipan to visit Japan for cross-cultural learning experiences. The program has been going on for nearly four decades since Miyazawa's initial feasibility study abroad tour to Saipan in 1984.

The ceremonial tribute and remembrance of Miyazawa's four-decade journey in cross-cultural experiences took place on Saipan, where the Saipan council first bestowed on Miyazawa the honorary title of "goodwill am-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The late Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa.

bassador" in 2014.

In one of Miyazawa's published writings, School to Turn Your Life Around, Miyazawa asserts "it is difficult to prove what cannot be done. [For] when you examine it thoroughly, you will find that it can be done and that nothing is 100% impossible. The gap between 'I want to' and 'I can' is bigger than the Mariana Trench [but] if you decide that you can do it, you will have the strength to overcome the obstacles."

Underpinning Miyazawa's philosophy of learning lies in the cultural traditions of Japan's Kyosei and Saipan's In-

afa'molek, a simple principle that espouses to "understand each other, leave nobody out, and make friends"—last uttered by Miyazawa on March 23, 2022, a day following his last celebration of Seisa's 50th anniversary in Japan.

Today, over 8,000 Bridge alumni living on Saipan and Japan have participated in this legacy program, a program that has become an iconic event widely anticipated each year by Seisa students coming to Saipan as well as MHS students meeting their Japanese brothers and sisters and Saipan students looking forward to the ski trips and other learning opportunities through Seisa's Participate and Learn Program in Japan each year.

Miyazawa, a world traveler and an islander too, inspired

many to believe and work for lasting peace and friendship between Japan and Saipan.

"A vision of a man who see the very ocean that sometimes appears to separate us as a bridge that connects all of us, here and now—as one people in peace, friendship, and goodwill journey in human relationships that transcend and traverse today's generation, a journey that shall continue for generations more tomorrow, in a relationship of peace, friendship and charity, precious values that bring us all here and now in annual Thanksgiving," stated a memorial tribute by the 17th municipal council leadership.

The municipal tribute of commemorative remembrance concluded saying: "May peace, friendship, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa founded the Japan-Saipan Bridge of Peace and Goodwill and Participate & Learn Program in 1984.

charity reign within us and through us all and unto others. And may the iconic Japan-Saipan Bridge of Peace, Friendship and Goodwill program at Marianas High School

and Seisa High School, a program that has extended to San Antonio School, bring lasting success, prosperity, and friendship to us all for all times in Zorro's memory." (PR)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division will start the CNMI 2024 Prevailing Wage Study (PWS) survey beginning on March 01, 2024 and notifies all businesses and employers in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the PWS survey questionnaire.

All businesses and employers (Private & Public), with and with no employees, are urged to complete this survey before March 15, 2024.

Data Collection Portal Link: <https://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>

## SUSHI SUNDAY BRUNCH

Saipan's 1st ever 30 kinds of Sushi Brunch!

Over 120 varieties in menu including  
30 kinds of sushi with unlimited beers, wines  
and champagne.

AD : \$45.00

CH : \$25.00 (4-11years)

Just add \$5.00/person for waterpark access

\*\* Valid CNMI ID Required \*\*

RESERVATION REQUIRED : 670-237-5170

# CNMI SBDC Network reveals 1st speaker profile in presenter series

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is excited to share its release of announcing the first of its many speakers who will be gracing our business, education and senior leadership communities alike at the highly anticipated 2024 Friends of Business Summit: CyberTech Edition event happening Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. The summit promises a day of tech innovation, insightful presentations, and networking opportunities for businesses and government agencies

across the Commonwealth. Joshua Cook, owner of Pacific Pact, will discuss how technology can make or break an organization in the first of its morning breakout sessions through a presentation titled "Innovate or Die: Utilizing Information Technology to Improve Modern Day Workflow Strategies."

## About the breakout session:

It's difficult to change with technology when it can cause chaos or waste time. In this session, participants will be

taken on an exploratory journey on big misunderstandings and misconceptions about technology, especially software changes. Our esteemed presenter will dive into knowing how to decipher an organization's needs and help confidently plan next steps to evolve with technology.

Additionally, make your organization's technology shift bulletproof by learning:

- How to prepare at the management level
- Choosing the right software
- Good vs. Great project management
- Preparing the team
- Supporting the changes

By the end of this session, attendees will be better equipped with knowledge related to measuring technology ROI while sitting through information-sharing on hardships and triumphs experienced from CNMI's enterprise software projects—what worked and what didn't; but most importantly, why?

This session is ideal for businesses or organizations who are looking to transition from their current software to an alternative solution, for anyone looking to upgrade their enterprise systems, or anyone interested

in learning more on how best to utilize technology through organizing their team's needs, capacity, and gaps within their business.

## About the presenter:

Joshua Cook is a husband, father and businessman with a personal mission to significantly change lives through the use of technology and strategic implementation methods. With over twelve years of experience in the tech space, and thirteen in project management experience with international and remote teams, Cook has successfully built two businesses while continuing to procure existing ones.

Cook merges them with his portfolio or scales them by integrating new technology. He is currently helping the CNMI government and private businesses solve large problems with process improvement, technology solutions and change management. Fun fact: Cook helped preserve a National Monument through a Presidential Proclamation.

## About the CyberTech Summit:

The 2024 Friends of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition is an SBDC signature event that aims to bring together the pri-

vate and public sectors across the Commonwealth. This year, the SBDC is

taking the Summit on a tech space journey through exploring the latest technological advances that can propel leaders in business, education and central government into the digital age. This training opportunity and tradeshow event will be open to all current and future SBDC clients at no-cost; however, pre-registration will be required. Due to limited seating, clients who do not have a confirmed reservation will not be admitted.

Join us as we offer training opportunities where areas in cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, smartphone usage, technological advancement in the workplace and education, and implementation of technological systems in governmental operations will be topics of discussion lead by both local and national industry experts.

## Key highlights:

- Innovative presentations: Throughout the course of the day, industry experts and thought leaders will share insights into the latest technological trends and offer solutions on how businesses can leverage them for their growth and efficiency.

- Trade Show: A vibrant

trade show will be a central part of the Summit, featuring tech businesses showcasing their cutting-edge products and services, providing a unique opportunity for the community to interact directly with tech innovators and explore firsthand, solutions that will be made available to them and how best they can be implemented to support business needs.

- Networking opportunities: The Summit will foster networking opportunities, allowing attendees to connect with fellow professionals, government representatives, and tech industry leaders, building connections crucial for fostering collaboration and driving innovation.

"We are excited to bring the 2024 Friends of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition to the CNMI's business and education communities," said Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, Network director of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network.

"This event was designed to empower businesses with the market, knowledge and resources they need to thrive in the digital era. We are grateful for the collaboration with our industry experts and the NMC's Office of Information Technology. We look forward to a day of learning, networking, and exploring the exciting possibilities that technology offers as we move into the age of digital transformation."

Attendance to the 2024 Friends of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition comes at no cost, but registration is required. To register, call the CNMI SBDC Network Lead Center Office at (670) 237-6888 or email [cnmisbdc@marianas.edu](mailto:cnmisbdc@marianas.edu). To stay updated with your local SBDC, visit [@cnmisbdc](https://cnmisbdc) on Instagram or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cnmisbdc>. Registration will close on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located on Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northern Marianas College. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD  
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg. 1242 Pohnpei Court  
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814  
Email: [info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp](mailto:info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp) • Website: [www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp](http://www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp)

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

## AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/21/2024)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
  - 1. Senate Confirmation of Dr. Glenda George to the HCPLB
- VII. Director's Report
  - 1. Update on Dr. Marty Rohringer's Nomination Hearing
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  - A. Governor's Office
  - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  - A. New Application
  - B. Renewal Application
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  - A. Update on Complaints
- XV. Announcements
  - A. Next Meeting Date
  - B. Adjournment of Meeting

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:** Provides financial analysis and information as per accounting data and research. Prepare financial reports, oversee payroll and accounts payable and receivable, and ensure all balances are accurate for tax and legal purposes. Issue invoices and bills and sent them to customers through e-mail. Responsible for ensuring that customer invoices are accurate and sent out in a timely manner, reconciling accounts receivable, and managing payments. Update accounting records with new payments, balances, customer information and other related tasks. Maintains customer confidence and protects operations by keeping financial information confidential. Summarizes current financial status by collecting information, preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports. Prepare up-to-date information and documentation for Revenues and Taxes. Responsible for comparing the company's general ledger against bank statements. Run company errands related to and or bank transactions

### DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Diploma/GED
- Bachelor's degree Major in Accounting or related degree.
- 12 months of accounting-related experience Technology skills using accounting systems and software specifically Quickbooks.

PRE-SCREENING TEST IS REQUIRED (LIKE TRADE TEST AND/OR EMPLOYMENT EXAM)

WORKING CONDITIONS: Full Time (40 hours per week)

LOCATION: SNT CORPORATION, Reyes Commercial Building Unit 101  
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS, PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME WITH  
A LIST OF REFERENCES, PHOTOCOPY OF A VALID PHOTO  
IDENTIFICATION CARD & UPDATED POLICE CLEARANCE TO:

TERESA LEE, PRESIDENT  
SNT CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 506695  
SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands  
96950 United States  
PHONE NUMBER: 670-989-1306  
OTHER NUMBER: 671-987-1306  
E-MAIL: [shlsasiapacific@outlook.com](mailto:shlsasiapacific@outlook.com)



Island Training Solutions  
Experience you can trust.

## WE ARE GROWING!

Seeking a well-organized and computer fluent person who can successfully handle administrative, scheduling and logistical tasks for the Project Manager and Team, including setting up and maintaining computer and physical files. Candidate will need to take ownership of the program and its many areas.

### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- Effectively coordinating and communicate with customers, instructors, partners and team members.
- Have great time management and scheduling abilities, to deliver tasks thoroughly and on time.
- Manage "Work Experience" program for graduates of the project.
- Managing online class content and exams from various platforms.
- Strong command of Microsoft Office and Canva.
- The ability to communicate effective in writing and speaking.
- Must have own transportation.

**SEND YOUR RESUME TO:**  
[islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com)

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
670-287-7037  
[www.islandtrainingcnmi.com](http://www.islandtrainingcnmi.com)

## APPLY NOW

## CCA launches 2024 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

The Commonwealth Cancer Association proudly commemorates the start of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month this March 2024, following a proclamation signing by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. This month-long initiative aims to enhance public understanding and action towards the prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer, a leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the CNMI.

In 2020, colorectal cancer was the third leading cause of cancer deaths for Asians

and Pacific Islanders in the U.S., with 5,275 diagnoses and 1,952 deaths. Locally, from 2019 to the present, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Oncology Center has diagnosed 73 individuals, with 12 fatalities. These statistics underline the urgency of addressing this deadly disease.

"Knowledge is power. Factors such as inadequate exercise, poor diet, obesity, alcohol consumption, and tobacco use increase the risk. We encourage everyone to adopt a healthier lifestyle and to get

screened at the age of 45," read the proclamation.

Palacios' proclamation emphasizes the importance of dietary choices, family history awareness, and regular screenings. "To the people of our Commonwealth, we declare March 2024 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Let's fight this disease by being informed and proactive about our health," he stated.

Echoing the sentiments of a local advocate, the CCA stresses the significance of knowing one's family medical history. "It's not just about inheriting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has designated March 2024 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. He is seen here with members of the Commonwealth Cancer Association following the proclamation at Office of Governor on Capital Hill.

physical traits but also understanding our vulnerabilities to diseases like cancer," Vincent

Gunnar Castro shared. "By promoting awareness, encouraging open conversations, and

providing resources, we aim to empower our community to make choices that reduce the burden of cancer."

The CCA invites the community to participate in awareness activities throughout the month. Together, we can take meaningful steps towards a healthier future by preventing and detecting colorectal cancer early.

The CCA is dedicated to reducing the incidence and impact of cancer in the CNMI through prevention, early detection, and support for those affected by cancer. For more information, visit [www.commonwealthcancer.org](http://www.commonwealthcancer.org) or contact their office directly at (670) 682-0051/2. (PR)

## CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

### 2024

## Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2024 Theme: "A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES"

The Council and its partners believe that each individual, regardless of their abilities, has the right to be respected, embraced, and provided with opportunities to thrive. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month serves as a profound reminder of these principles, emphasizing the value, rights, and aspirations of those with developmental disabilities. It's a month-long observance that celebrates individuals with DD, their achievements, and promotes understanding and inclusivity within our community.

The Council and the Disability Network Partners, once again celebrated some outstanding individuals who truly embodied what advocacy is all about. Please join us as we continue to celebrate and honor members of our community that have dedicated their lives to helping and improving the lives of people with Developmental Disabilities.

**Thank You to Our Sponsors, NMC-UCEDD & DCCA-DYS  
2024 CHAMPIONS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

#### Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Maria L. Olopai  
Tinian: Maria H. Aguon  
Rota: Conception Ulloa

#### Educator Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Jerry Diaz  
Tinian: Tracy Sanchez  
Rota: Doralynn Barcenas

#### Employer Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Green Meadows School & Joeten Superstore  
Tinian: Tinian Western Lodge  
Rota: Lucky Store

#### Family Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: The Nicholas Family  
Tinian: Susan San Nicolas  
Rota: Pauline Manglona

#### Legislative Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Rep. Thomas John DLC Manglona  
Rota: Sen. Donald Manglona

#### Public/Private Business Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Karidat  
Tinian: Tinian Municipal Council  
Rota: Rota Mayor's Office

#### Self-Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Efren Nicholas  
Tinian: Cherry Mae Penaranda  
Rota: Rosemina Poll

#### NMC-UCEDD-HEROES:

Saipan: Jonathan Aguon  
Tinian: Henry H. San Nicolas Jr.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS), in collaboration with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division (DOC-CSD) will begin visits in mid-March 2024 to all farms on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to conduct the CNMI 2023 Census of Agriculture data collection.

Response to the Census of Agriculture is required by Federal Law, under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 and as well as the CNMI 1990 Statistical Act Public Law 7-35.





**COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702  
Website: [www.NMJudiciary.com](http://www.NMJudiciary.com)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

**MENTAL HEALTH COURT DOCKET MANAGER**  
for Mental Health Court  
Announcement # JVA24-010  
SAIPAN

**DUTIES:** The Mental Health Docket Manager position is under general supervision of the Presiding Judge and will work under the direct supervision of the designated Mental Health Court Judge. This position will be responsible for overall planning, management oversight and daily operations of the Mental Health Court Docket ("Docket") and its services on courthouses in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Prepares social studies, case histories, reports and evaluations concerning information secured and services rendered;
- Manages the implementation and administration of mental health treatment program(s) for the Docket;
- Coordinates all necessary screenings for potential participants in the Docket;
- Maintains current knowledge of all state and federal regulatory developments governing administration of Docket programs and program grant regulations;
- Maintains knowledge of the judicial system and its interrelationship in court-referred inmates;
- Provides managerial direction to and performance appraisals of staff engaged in the operation of the Docket;
- Participates in the selection, summarization, and presentation of case data from a variety of sources for casework planning, supervisory conferences, and consultations;
- Coordinates all court-related referrals through judicial system, attorney general's office and public defender's office;
- Conducts program-needs assessment and submits requests for capital expenditures, staffing, and program enhancements where indicated;
- Oversees all operational issues related to the physical facilities of the Docket;
- Develops, coordinates, and monitors record keeping systems for effective program evaluation;
- Promotes and organizes community support for agency criminal justice/mental health programs through lectures, training, and meetings;
- Oversees all contracts related to services provided to the Docket and its programs including, but not limited to, media programs and Information Management systems; 2
- Maintains liaison and confers with public officials, agency representative, treatment providers, law enforcement community, and other professional persons that may have contact with the Docket;
- Works closely with the Mental Health Court Judge and treatment providers to create programs and procedures for treatment, counseling, employment training, self-esteem building, and drug testing;
- Interprets and provides public information regarding agency program objectives and activities;
- Develops and administers all reporting profiles for funding agencies;
- Assists in the preparation and maintains program annual budget, and grant support activities;
- Researches, applies and manages grants;
- Surveys Docket participants periodically and develops other methods of research and data to measure effectiveness of the program;
- Develops and administers all reporting profiles for judicial purposes;
- Develops goals, objectives and strategies for the Docket;
- Develops and maintains written protocol and procedures for the operation of the Docket;
- Receives, receipts and monitors payment of fees by Docket participants;
- Identifies local resources for Docket participants in the following areas: counseling, treatment, employment, pregnancy services, health services or other services needed for participants to successfully complete Docket requirements;
- Ensures the Docket's adherence to evidence-based standards and best practices under NADCP;
- Participates in program certification and peer reviews or other quality assurance programs;
- Assists Mental Health Court Judge in resolving issues or problems relating to the Docket;
- Schedules and prepares agendas for meetings or meetings with other professionals related to Docket activity;
- Mediates and resolves disputes between Docket, law enforcement, other agencies, treatment providers, and Docket participants or others who may come into contact with the program;
- Submits budget requests in collaboration with the Mental Health Court Judge and Presiding Judge;
- Supervises administrative personnel assigned to Docket;
- Develops or oversees the development of appropriate program brochures, literature, videos or press releases as approved by the Mental Health Court Judge; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** The Mental Health Docket Manager must have a high school diploma or equivalent AND must hold a bachelor's degree from a recognized College or University in Behavioral Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Criminal Justice, Criminology, Judicial Administration or other similar field. Minimum three (3) years supervisory and administrative experience in the administration of a criminal justice/substance abuse/mental health treatment court; experience should include participation in the development and implementation of regulated treatment programs; or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience.

Candidate must be able to work in a fast-paced environment and work under pressure. Candidate must also:

- be organized and attentive to detail;
- be able to multi-task and meet deadlines;
- be able to follow instructions;
- be a team player and have excellent communication and interpersonal skills; and
- use independent judgement and proper handling of confidential information.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and be able to operate a court vehicle.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid driver's license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-IV of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.

**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$55,000 - \$57,750 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS:** Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices at Kotten Tinian on Tinian and Centron Hustisia on Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary  
Human Resources  
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165  
Saipan, MP 96950  
  
Tel. (670) 236-9818  
Cell. (670) 783-8592  
Fax. (670) 236-9702  
hr.judiciary@NMJudiciary.gov

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.NMJudiciary.gov>.

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

<sup>1</sup> The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.

(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024

(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011

(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217

(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711

(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223. While the Judiciary offers these addresses information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign

education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

# Chamber hosts 'Let's Talk Business' mixer

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
Man Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
Website: [www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**PORT OF SAIPAN CPA OFFICE LEAK REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-22**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Office Leak Repairs at the Captain George F. Fleming Memorial Building at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-SS-001-22.

The project is being funded by the CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi L. Prater at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at [receptionist@cnmiports.com](mailto:receptionist@cnmiports.com).

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA  
Executive Director

Date: February 14, 2024



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The "Let's Talk Business" mixer is set for March 19, 2024, from 5pm to 7pm at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce its upcoming 2024 1st Quarter Mixer, themed "Let's Talk Business," scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 5pm to 7pm at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

This event promises an

exciting night of networking opportunities for local businesses and professionals, providing a platform to foster connections and discuss potential collaborations. Attendees can expect a vibrant atmosphere conducive to building relationships within the Saipan business community.

In addition to networking, the evening will feature a lively trivia activity, adding a touch of friendly competition and entertainment to the business discussions. Participants can test their knowledge on various topics while engaging with fellow attendees in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

To ensure your spot at the Chamber's 1st Quarter Mixer, RSVP by visiting <https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-1st-quarter-mixer-let-s-talk-business-386>. Alternatively, you can call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or send an email to [contactus@saipanchamber.org](mailto:contactus@saipanchamber.org).

The Chamber looks forward to welcoming local businesses, entrepreneurs, and professionals for an evening of productive conversations and connections at the "1st Quarter: Let's Talk Business" Mixer.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization in the CNMI with a membership of 140 members and growing. It is committed to empowering enterprise as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, family, and the community succeed as one. (PR)

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

**AMENDED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #04-2024**

**Opening date: March 04, 2024**    **Closing date: March 22, 2024**

**Location: SAIPAN**

**Position(s):** (2) AOA Controller-I  
(1) ARFF Mechanic II  
(1) Comptroller  
(1) Custodial  
(1) Master Electrician  
(1) Procurement Technician  
(1) Receptionist/Secretary  
(1) Safety Officer/Quality Control Specialist

**SALARY**

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)  
PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)  
UNGRADED  
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to 12.42/hr)  
PL 19/1 to 19/12 (\$17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr)  
PL 9/1 to 9/12 (\$10.73/hr to \$18.35/hr)  
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)  
Minimum: \$36,356.89/annum  
Maximum: \$62,182.63/annum

**Location: TINIAN**

**Position(s):** (1) General Maintenance

**SALARY**

PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr to \$13.04/hr)

**Location: ROTA**

**Position(s):** (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I  
(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I

**SALARY**

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)  
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr to \$13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 22, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at [lorna.robert@cnmiports.com](mailto:lorna.robert@cnmiports.com) and [hrspecialist@cnmiports.com](mailto:hrspecialist@cnmiports.com) or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA  
Executive Director



# The women who inspire us

By NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES

SPECIAL TO SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**F**or International Women's Day, we asked these accomplished individuals to tell us about the special women who inspired them and had a profound impact on their lives.



Each one of us is inspired by those around us that share commonality in life, from our upbringing, i.e., tradition, culture, and respect, to education, to career, to aspiration, to everything that shaped us to become the person who we are today. Mothers play a very significant role in our daily life. My mother inspired me from the moment I opened my eyes in this beautiful world of ours to today. Her gentle hands, soft and caring voice, and wisdom guided me to where I am today.

**LT. GOV. DAVID M. APATANG**  
CNMI Lieutenant Governor

My mom has always been my primary source of inspiration.



She started working at the age of 13 to support her mother. With limited education but with a lot of love for her community, she stepped up to serve her community and was one of the first elected women to serve in the first CNMI Legislature. She continued that service in unelected positions all her life. Today, her devotion to the church and her deep faith in God reminds me every day to be kind, to be merciful, and to love. Every day that I wake up, she greets me with prayers to see the world through my faith in God and His love and sacrifice for His people.

**KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS**  
Lawyer, Law Office of Kimberlyn King-Hinds

Our mom, Patty Aguon-Cruz, stands at just 4'11", and even in her highest heels and poofiest dress, she remains as "chib" and petite as they come. But don't let her stature fool you; she is anything but diminutive. She has a larger-than-life personality, the energy of a supertyphoon, and a heart equipped to love everyone she crosses paths with. She's a bringer of light and always



the life of the party. She is as resourceful as she is tender, lifting our family out of poverty and laying the foundation for our self-confidence and success. She is also a cancer survivor. Despite facing 12 blood transfusions, countless rounds of radiation and chemotherapy, surgeries that left her bedridden with 12 tubes running through her body, and doctors doubting her survival, she battled with unwavering faith, willing her miracle into existence. Twelve years later, she is still kicking life's ass and living her life to the fullest. She does Zumba, boxes, runs, leaps out of airplanes, and continues to smile to be a light in the world.

**DR. BOBBY CRUZ**  
Director, PSS Mental Health  
Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council  
Vice chair, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter

My sweet mother Lucy Baba taught me to believe in myself, no matter the circumstance or situation, to continue to persevere and move forward, to view barriers and challenges as opportunities to grow, to strive to be better as a son, brother, and family man—and to do it respectfully and gracefully without harm.

See WOMEN on Page 20

## CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all **#InspireInclusion**.

**OLAY**

**always**

**PANTENE**

**Gillette Venus**

**Oral-B**

**Crest**

**#inspireInclusion**

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Wildlife Preservation

### AMANDA SANTOS

Wildlife biologist, Division of Fish and Wildlife

**Q: What drives you to make a difference in your community?**

**A:** The community itself is my inspiration. Everything I am today is because of it, and I want to give back because I am truly grateful.

**Q: Can you share a particularly memorable experience or achievement?**

**A:** I travel to the Northern Islands for work, and it proves to be a challenging task for both men and women. We are there for weeks without the basic amenities that we are used to having on Saipan. No running water, no power. Being up there is physically

demanding because we hike from dawn 'til dusk collecting wildlife data. It is a big accomplishment for me not only as a woman but as an indigenous person to go to the Northern Islands, and it is something that I will continue to do. I even have plans to go to Alamagan and Agrihan this year.

**Q: What are some of the biggest challenges women face today?**

**A:** Gender opportunities. The struggle for work-life balance is universal, and it is defined by gender-specific challenges. Not only do women work full-time [but] we often bear more of the responsibility when caring for our home or family. Understanding these differences is a step forward in creating a supportive environment. Communities can also work together by educating people that roles are equal and should be given the same opportunities



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wildlife biologist Amanda Santos holds a juvenile white tern.

regardless of gender.

**Q: Was there ever a time when you had to challenge societal norms and stereotypes?**

**A:** When I started my career, I was often dismissed or unheard, because I was seen as a "young woman." On one of my surveys, I was talking to the applicant and he refused to answer me. Even though I was the one asking the questions, he would respond to my male coworker and has even referred to me as an inexperienced trainee. If he had actually talked to me and not assumed, he would've realized that I was a trained biologist, and the person to whom he was responding to was getting trained by

me. I overcame it by standing my ground and continuing to do my job.

**Q: How can individuals, businesses, and governments collaborate more effectively to create an environment where women can thrive?**

**A:** By acknowledging International Women's Day. Creating equal opportunities for women is a great way to help them gain experience and thrive.

**Q: Have you had any mentors? How do you pay that forward?**

**A:** When I graduated high school, I participated in the Coral Reef Initiative Internship where I had a female mentor. While in my undergrad at Oregon State University,

I was in the College of Agricultural Science Leadership Academy where I also had a female mentor. The mentors I had at different stages of my life helped motivate me by sharing their experiences. It helped me pave the road in my career.

Last year I mentored two amazing females under the Division of Coastal Resource Management Internship program, one of whom recently informed me she got accepted into a graduate program. This year I plan to continue to mentor under the same program.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Emergency Response

### NIPIGHIYONG T. LANIYO

Firefighter, Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services

**Q: What inspired you to actively involved in your community, and what drives you to continue making a difference?**

**A:** Not only is my father still currently in the fire service, [but] I also come from a family of women who were educators. Growing up I had the opportunity to witness them teach and foster the growth of their students, and serve and aid the community, while enjoying it too. What drives me to continue making a difference? To make sure the next generation of leaders, civil service employees, and community can live a prosperous life.

**Q: Can you share a particularly memorable experience or achievement?**

**A:** The fire department is a male-dominated workforce. I feel that, alongside the other female firefighters, past and present, excelling in this choice of career paves the way for the future generation of female firefighters to trailblaze and become successful.

**Q: What are some of the biggest challenges women face today, and how can individuals and communities work together to overcome them?**

**A:** One of the biggest challenges women face today is their ability to work being underestimated. I think coming together as a community and consistently advocating for women's rights and equality starting with the younger generations will definitely have a positive effect. We also have to keep in mind the different types of cultures that are practiced globally. In some cultures, men sit at the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nipighiyong T. Laniyo. top of the hierarchy, while women are condemned to the bottom. I think that the countries where local cultures are still heavily practiced will have a less effective outcome in the acceptance of women's equality and rights.

**Q: Will you share a time when you had to challenge societal norms and stereotypes?**

**A:** By actually giving them an opportunity to take on whatever obstacles are presented. Implementing a prerequisite that is just and fair for all genders. I strongly believe that advocating for rights and inclusivity with the target audience being our younger generation will have a positive outcome for the generation of future leaders to come.

**Q: Can you share how mentorship played a role in your journey?**

**A:** I have always been the bigger girl. One of the biggest challenges I face as a woman is being underestimated because of my size. I was constantly put down since I was a child by peers and some extended family members. My immediate family, though, never failed to remind me about how beautiful I was. They forged in my brain that no matter my size I could accomplish anything I set my mind and heart to.

Society depicts a firefighter as an individual who is fit and slim. Here I am though, despite being a big woman I continue to proudly serve my community and the people of the CNMI to the best of my abilities.

**Q: How can individuals, businesses, and governments create an environment where women can thrive?**

**A:** Working in a male-dominated workplace in the last eight years has definitely taught me a lot. The female firefighters are the minority in the fire department. Yes, my male peers in my department shaped and molded me into who I am today regarding work, but it was the advice from the few female firefighters that stuck with me just a bit more.

**Q: How do you envi-**

sion the future of gender equality and women's empowerment?

**A:** It may not be the fastest race we'll ever win, but when we reach that finish line all the hard work put into it will definitely be worth it. I come from a line of women who each have paved the way for me to become the best version of myself. I am grateful for the women who raised me and molded me into the woman I am today, flaws and all. The role that I see myself playing in advancing these goals is to continuously advocate for self-love and acceptance of all women. To make sure that any woman around my presence knows that they are accepted, valued, and worthy of anything they set their mind to.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in the International Stage

### JAN ZOWIE CRUZ

Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2023

**Q: What drives you to be involved in the community?**

**A:** Living on the beautiful island of Saipan, the strong community spirit inspires me the most. We work together to overcome challenges and improve our island, which motivates me to be involved in community activities. Knowing that my efforts help make Saipan better keeps me driven to make a positive difference.

**Q: Can you share a memorable experience or achievement that you're proud?**

**A:** Competing in the Miss Earth 2023 International Pageant was a memorable

experience. It provided me with a platform to showcase beauty, intelligence, talent, and advocacy. Through my participation, I raised awareness about environmental issues, advocated for sustainability, and emphasized the importance of women's leadership in addressing global challenges. Being part of this prestigious event amplified my voice and contributed to ongoing efforts to empower women worldwide.

**Q: What are some of the biggest challenges women face today?**

**A:** From my perspective here in the CNMI, some major challenges women face globally are limited education access, unequal pay, and lack of leadership roles. To overcome these, we need to advocate



KEN CAMACHO

Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2023 Jan Zowie Cruz.

for equal opportunities, support women's education and careers, and promote gender equality through policies and cultural changes. Together, we can create a fairer and

**Q: Was there ever a time when you had to challenge societal norms and stereotypes?**

**A:** As Miss Earth Northern Marianas, one challenge I've faced was breaking stereotypes about beauty pageants. I overcame them by showcasing my intelligence, talents, and advocacy work, proving that beauty and brains go hand in hand.

**Q: How can individuals, businesses, and governments collaborate create an environment where women can thrive?**

**A:** I believe collaboration among individuals, businesses, and governments is key to empowering women. For instance, local busi-

nesses can offer mentorship programs for women, the government can implement policies supporting women-owned local businesses, and individuals can advocate for gender equality in their communities. Together, we can create an environment where women can thrive both professionally and personally.

**Q: Will you share how mentorship has played a role in your own journey?**

**A:** Mentorship has been crucial in my journey, especially in pageantry. For instance, experienced contestants provided guidance on stage presence and interview skills, helping me improve during my performance at the Miss Earth International Pageant. Now

I pass on that support by mentoring newcomers and offering insights and advice to help them grow and build confidence.

**Q: How do you envision the future of gender equality and women's empowerment?**

**A:** I envision a future not just within the CNMI but globally where gender equality and women's empowerment are fully embraced. My role is to lead by example, advocating for equal opportunities and uplifting women in our community through education, leadership, and community involvement.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

# Soroptimists: Empowering women for success



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Baby Laundry Basket assembly team of the Soroptimist International-NMI Chapter.

By TERI M. FLORES

CORRESPONDENT

**“W**e will put forth our best efforts to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment." That is the pledge Soroptimists have lived up to for over a century now that still rings true today.

With human rights and gender equality as its main advocacy, the Soroptimist International of the Americas works on grassroots projects that directly help women and girls access their human rights across the world.

Its strong network of 66,000 members and supporters spread across North America, Latin America, and the Pacific, which includes Guam and the Northern Marianas, offers more than \$2 million in education grants to about 1,500 women all

See *SUCCESS* on Page 14

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HAPPY INTERNATIONAL  
*Women's Day*  
to the amazing women in our team and in the CNMI

FROM THE TEAM AT  
CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

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**SUCCESS**

From page 13

over the world.

Most of those who have benefitted from the program are women and families who have overcome life's obstacles, including domestic and sexual abuse, poverty, teen pregnancy and drug or alcohol addiction.

Aligned with the goals and mission of the Soroptimist International of the Americas, the Northern Marianas chapter also offers the former's

key project known as "Live Your Dream" since its founding in 2013.

As a nationwide Soroptimist program, the Live Your Dream initiative assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects.

Live Your Dream Award recipients may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition,

and transportation.

Over the past 10 years, the Northern Marianas Chapter has already received over 150 applicants, according to chapter president Maureen Sebangiol, with 20 women successfully winning the grant money.

For this year, a record number of 23 women applied for the grant and the Northern Marianas chapter awarded a total of \$3,500 to four recipients who were honored in a February 10 celebration.

For those who have been awarded the Live Your Dream grant, the impact on their



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The awardees of Soroptimist International-NMI Chapter's Live Your Dream Awards are presented their grants at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last February.

individual lives has been life-altering.

"One hundred percent of the winners of a 'Live Your Dream' award have stated that it made a difference in their lives. If the monetary award did not change their lives, feeling seen and heard is what they have accomplished. As a woman and as a girl, gaining self-confidence and the assurance that your voice matters are life-changing. In fact, Leah Murphy, who is our 2014 winner, went on to achieve her doctorate degree," said Sebangiol.

To qualify for the grant, applicants must be able to show that they are a woman who is pursuing her under-

graduate or trades degree and that they are also the financial head of the household. The eligible applicant must be enrolled in, or have been accepted to, a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program and must demonstrate financial need.

The Northern Marianas chapter has also begun a new service program called "Baby Laundry Baskets," which provides baby starter kits for eligible families identified by social workers at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. who need resources upon the infant and mother's discharge from the hospital.

In partnership with D&Q In-

ternational, the "Baby Laundry Baskets" contain essentials for the newborn, which include disposable diapers and wipes, baby clothes, and a baby bath towel as well as laundry detergent, bleach and laundry softener and, a roll of quarters for the laundromat.

"We were able to raise \$337 from a raffle during our awarding ceremony [in February] and this will serve as the seed money for the 'Baby Laundry Baskets' project," said Sebangiol.

Throughout its century-old history, the Soroptimists have been known to leave a far-reaching and positive influence in their communities. In fact, the impact of the Soroptimists' positive influence on society is the basis of three of the five initiatives laid down by the United Nations for the 2024 International Women's Day theme of "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress."

The Live Your Dream Awards is a direct response to the first two UN IWD initiatives, which are investing in women and ending poverty. Through training and education provided by the Live Your Dream Awards, women get substantial resources to allow them to gain education and realize their career goals, thus helping bridge the financial gap resulting from the inattention given to gender equality measures.

The Soroptimists' mission also supports the third UN IWD initiative of implementing gender-responsive financing through the creation of a financial landscape that is responsive to the unique needs and challenges women face.

Sebangiol says it is critical for women to get paid and be given benefits equal to what is being given to men so that they can provide for themselves and their families.

"A woman is more likely to become a single parent and head of household post-divorce or separation. Her single income should be sufficient to allow a decent quality of life for her and her children without having to rely on food stamps, Medicaid, and other government subsidies. When a woman achieves success either academically or professionally, it is her family, her village, and the island community that benefits as well."



Group photo of the Ladies Paint Night of Soroptimist International-NMI Chapter.

**Celebrating International Women's Day**

# Let's Inspire Inclusion

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# SBDC helps women gain entrepreneurial skills

By TERI M. FLORES  
CORRESPONDENT

Women continue to break glass ceilings in entrepreneurship, either by becoming a part of a corporate team once dominated by male executives or by choosing to become business owners themselves.

In Lisa Zhou's blog list of 2024 trends about women in business, women-owned businesses have grown 114% in the last two decades while one-third of businesses worldwide are owned by women. On a global scale, one in three businesses has a woman among the principal owners.

There is still a lot more that needs to be done for women entrepreneurs locally, but the CNMI is not far behind in providing opportunities for women-led businesses to thrive.

At the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network, aspiring women entrepreneurs may take advantage of the no-cost consulting and training workshops that are part of the Women Entrepreneurship Program.

All it takes to be included in the Women Entrepreneurship Program is simply registering to become a CNMI SBDC client, according to Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, network director of the CNMI SBDC Network.

Since being introduced four years ago, three groups of women have already completed WEP's training and lectures.

Held in collaboration with the CNMI Women's Association, the training series involves industry experts, mentors, and women entrepreneurs sharing and providing their expertise on a wide range of topics that include business planning, financial management, and marketing.

The training also focuses on personal development and leadership skills, helping participants gain the confidence and tools needed to succeed in the business world.

Deleon Guerrero acknowledges the importance of building and sustaining good business connections and relationships among women as vital to their success as entrepreneurs.

"It is important that we continue to acknowledge the vital role women play in business. Through WEP, we strive to provide that safe space where women can engage with one another, share business tips and tricks, and where the ultimate goal becomes lifting each other and

empowering them toward making smarter and healthier financial decisions that will catapult them toward success."

Deleon Guerrero said the success of the third group of WEP graduates is a testament to the strength, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit of CNMI women.

She said the program's impact is expected to be felt throughout the region with the women graduates contributing to the CNMI's economic growth and prosperity.

Donna Rivera, one of the program's participants, said she will put to good use the information and skills she learned from the four-day program. "Being surrounded by women eager to learn and support one another in achieving success with our ventures was truly a treat. I wish everyone success and sincerely hope that Northern Marianas College, CNMI SBDC, and CNMI Women's Association will continue this project for the greater good of our entire community."

Linda Cabrera, a representative from the CNMI Women's Association, added, "... This initiative promotes gender equality and economic development in our community. The collaboration between the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network and the CNMI Women's Association has been instrumental in making this program a success, and we look forward to continuing to support the growth of women-owned businesses."

Deleon Guerrero said the SBDC is committed to remain an active supporter of initiatives that promote equitable opportunities in the business community for women.

"By championing gender equality, the SBDC contributes to local and global competitiveness, positioning our community as one that values diversity and fosters economic prosperity," said Deleon Guerrero.

For women who want to enter the world of entrepreneurship, she shares this gem: "Embrace your dreams and aspirations with unwavering confidence as you embark on the path of entrepreneurship. Your resilience, creativity, and determination are the cornerstones of a thriving business community. Support one another, celebrate each success, and lift each other up in times of challenge. Your endeavors contribute not only to your personal success but also to the growth and dynamism of our entire community.

Believe in the power of your ideas and let your entrepre-



The latest cohort of the Women Entrepreneurship Project of the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network are presented their certificates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

neurial spirit shine. Together, we can create a future where women entrepreneurs in the

CNMI are not just prominent but trailblazers inspiring generations to come."

The CNMI SBDC Network may be reached at P.O. Box 501250 Saipan, MP 96950 or

by telephone number (670) 237-6888, or by email at cnmisbdc@marianas.edu.

**Nicole Babauta**  
Senior Consumer Sales Manager

*This International Women's Day, we honor her contributions, celebrating the resilience and brilliance she brings in a field where possibilities are limitless. Together, let's celebrate the achievements, amplify the voices, and embrace the boundless potential that women bring to every sphere.*

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Better Together

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Bodybuilding

### CHRISTINA TUDELA

■ First CNMI gold medal in bodybuilding (both male/female)

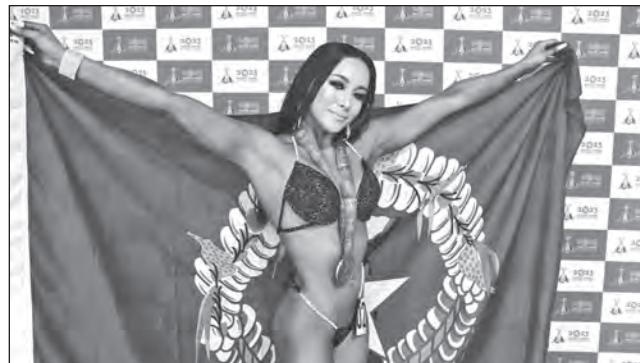
■ First CNMI female athlete to place gold in bodybuilding in the Pacific Games

**Q: Can you share a particularly memorable experience or achievement that you're proud of?**

**A:** I would definitely have to say what would be memorable for me is my win in the Pacific Games for bodybuilding. It is just such a masculine type of sport so being a woman and proving that we can do just as much to bring positive recognition to our islands is a great feat.

**Q: In your opinion, what are some of the biggest challenges that women face globally today, and how can individuals and communities work together to overcome them?**

**A:** Women tend to be undermined in general because many people still just view us as weaker, more at a disadvantage, less valued, and less capable. Despite the efforts of all the women pioneers in history, gender bias still very



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christina Tudela is the first CNMI female athlete to place gold in bodybuilding at the 2023 Pacific Games.

much exists in today's world. We are still so constantly scrutinized and judged more than men are in many aspects.

I believe that individuals and communities should try to do more to be open-minded, understanding, and accepting. I think if everyone in general could just exhibit more compassion, and empathy, and establish positive connections before passing judgment, it could make an immense difference.

**Q: Was there ever a time when you had to challenge societal norms and stereotypes?**

**A:** I've personally experienced having to work and wear multiple hats—doing

a lot more additional tasks out of my scope of work just to be barely recognized for my effort and role in driving a company to success. However, when it came time to make an important decision that would affect the future of the company, they [management] looked to hear the opinion of the man who was less qualified, less experienced, and barely even put in any time, effort, or energy to increase the business' profit instead of looking to me for my input.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Environmental Conservation

### ELIZABETH FUREY

Program Director, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

**Q: What inspires you to be involved in the community?**

**A:** My greatest inspiration is a combination of my family's commitment to education, a legacy in public service, and our deep-rooted connection to the Marianas. My desire to protect and support the conservation of our natural resources for current and future generations, particularly my daughter, is a passion I share with my father who has served in this field for the past 40 years. Through my work at MINA and alongside community partners, I too have been dedicated to serving my island community and promoting environmental conservation.

**Q: Any memorable experience or achievement?**

**A:** There is not one personal achievement or experience specifically that comes to mind that I can say has attributed to the



ideals of women's empowerment and equality. I do believe that my position as a program director at MINA has served as an inspiration for some and hopefully others in the upcoming generations to serve for a cause greater than oneself.

In my time at MINA, I have been fortunate to be a part of the machine that has developed the Tasi Watch program exponentially. Tasi Watch was established to build local capacity in managing and conserving the islands' natural resources with the goal of providing rangers with a comprehensive set of skills, on-the-job experiences, and basic environmental

values to help prepare them for future careers in natural resource management and responsible leadership roles in the community.

As a result, this program has been instrumental in raising community awareness and support for better conservation practices that impact everyone in the CNMI. It is my hope that our efforts have empowered not just women, but people from all walks of life to take action in protecting the environment today for tomorrow.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Philanthropy

### LAUREN CABRERA

Founder and executive director, Saipan Humane Society

**Q: What inspired you to do what you do?**

**A:** As an avid animal lover and pet owner, witnessing the community's struggle to access basic animal healthcare deeply affected me. There's nothing more distressing for a pet owner than being unable to provide care for their sick or suffering animal. Additionally, the sight of numerous animals facing health issues on the streets served as a powerful motivator for me.

My passion lies in expanding access to animal healthcare, not only for the well-being of the animals but also for the people who love them.

Furthermore, controlling the stray animal population is crucial for maintaining the balance of our island ecosystem.

**Q: Any memorable achievement you'd like to share?**

In the CNMI, the animal health field has historically been small and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lauren Cabrera poses with rescued puppies at the Saipan Humane Society.

primarily male-dominated. It has been exciting to see the expansion of the animal health sector, not only in terms of its reach within our community but also in fostering greater gender diversity.

Witnessing the increase in the number of women actively involved in this field and supporting their professional development has been an honor. Our Saipan Humane team has transformed into a strong group of leaders and innovators, collectively dedicated to making animal healthcare more accessible

to our community.

**Q: What are some of the biggest challenges women face today, and how can individuals and communities work together to overcome them?**

**A:** While it's challenging to capture the diverse experiences of women worldwide, several common issues persist. Globally, women often grapple with inequitable opportunities in education and employment, harassment, violence, and discrimination. To address these challenges, empowering younger generations becomes crucial.

By providing knowledge and opportunities, we can cultivate a mindset that is resilient in the face of these issues. It's through collaborative efforts within communities and a commitment to education that we can contribute to overcoming these barriers for women on a global scale.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Fitness

### MARY GRACE BAUTISTA

Founder and president, M2 Fitness



efforts to empower women and promote gender equality?

**A:** One of the most memorable experiences in my journey stems from the inception of M2 Fitness, a nonprofit organization that I proudly founded and serve as president.

Witnessing the transformational impact that M2 Fitness has had on the lives of countless women in our community fills me with immense pride and gratitude.

At M2 Fitness, our mission extends far beyond just exercise. We believe in empowering women to embrace their strength, both physically and

mentally, in a supportive and inclusive environment.

**Q: What would you consider the biggest challenges women face today?**

**A:** Some of the most pressing challenges that women face today stem from deeply ingrained systemic inequalities and discriminatory practices like limited access to education and healthcare, gender-based violence, economic disparities, and underrepresentation in positions of leadership and decision-making. To overcome these, individuals and communities must come together in solidarity and collective action.

Education plays a pivotal role in challenging societal norms and empowering women to advocate for their rights. By investing in women's education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities, we can break the cycle of poverty and empower women to fulfill their potential.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

# NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

# Helping women achieve their dreams

By TERI M. FLORES  
CORRESPONDENT

**D**ellina Lieto is a woman with a dream. Known among her family and friends for good home-cooked meals and sweet and indulgent baked goods, Lieto knew she wanted more out of her passion for cooking and baking.

After some thinking and learning about the trades training available on the island, Lieto decided to follow her passion for the culinary arts by signing up for the

I've been told I'm a great baker and cook before I took NMTech's culinary courses. After graduating and applying what I have learned in cooking classes, I have grown as a person and as a professional.

Northern Marianas Technical Institute's culinary program. That was one year ago. Today, Lieto is a successful businesswoman who takes pride in managing her own food catering business.

"I was facing the possibility of losing my job when the thought of going back to school came to my mind. ... I thought it would be a great start to build on and expand my personal skill set if I took classes at NMTech and that's what I did," said Lieto.

Completing NMTech's culinary program has given Lieto both personal and professional satisfaction and led to

more opportunities. "I have expanded my catering business to include dishes and desserts that were not part of the menu I regularly prepared. For the most part, I've enjoyed experimenting with new recipes for my kids to enjoy at home," she said.

Lieto said the certifications she earned from NMTech has boosted her confidence as a businesswoman and has given her the credibility to do business as a cook and as a baker.

"I've been told I'm a great baker and cook before I took NMTech's culinary courses. After graduating and applying what I have learned in cooking classes, I have grown as a person and as a professional because of the knowledge and skills I have gained from my time at NMTech," she said.

Lieto is one of the hundreds of women and girls who have taken advantage of the advanced trades and career and technical education offered at NMTech.

Created through CNMI Public Law 20-92, NMTech prepares students and sets them up for careers in the hospitality, construction, technical services, and automotive industries.

The school also offers Google Certificate courses for those who are looking to beef up their knowledge in IT support, project management, digital marketing and E-commerce, and data analytics.

The trade school provides scholarship opportunities that are available through several government agencies and programs.

Since the school's opening, there have already been 50 women who have so far taken advanced trade courses, while 15 women students have taken advantage of the school's Google Certificate Program, said Taylor DLG Ada, NMTech program coordinator.

Ada expects the school's women student population to steadily increase as women gain access to more opportunities that enhance their personal and professional growth.

Lieto is a good example of that. She says NMTech helps women such as her find encouragement and support not just from local government agencies like the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance and the CNMI Scholarship office but also from the NMTech's staff and administration.

See DREAMS on Page 19



Taylor DLG Ada



Dellina Lieto

Today we honor the remarkable contributions of women in shaping history and building a better future

Happy International *Womens Day*

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## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Education

### DIANN TUDELA TORRES

2024 National History Teacher of the Year



**Q: What drives you to make a difference in the community?**

**A:** My dedication to community service began long before I became a teacher and a parent. The motivation to get involved comes from a profound affection for my homeland and its people. The determination to continue making an impact originates from my deep interest in preserving and celebrating our language and traditions. This natural bond to my heritage drives my unwavering commitment to making a positive difference and participating actively in enhancing our community.

**Q: Can you share a memorable experience or achievement?**

**A:** One of the most significant and cherished moments in my journey toward empowering women and advocating for gender equality lies in

the years I spent as a high school teacher. During this time, I played a pivotal role in guiding young women to explore diverse career pathways. Witnessing their growth and success today brings me immense pride, knowing that I contributed to shaping their journeys.

Additionally, my active participation in the beauty pageant for some time and recognizing women (1st Lady Women Recognition Awards) in our communities are another impactful endeavor.

**Q: What are some of the biggest challenges women face today?**

**A:** While acknowledging the progress women have

recently made, we must also focus on tackling existing inequalities. As a small island community, we can work together to overcome our challenges by simply supporting one another and seeing past stereotypes.

**Q: How can individuals, businesses, and governments create an environment where women can thrive?**

**A:** In a tight-knit community like ours, supporting one another is paramount. Small businesses can collaborate with local organizations to create opportunities for women to thrive economically. Community members can champion women's causes, attend workshops, and actively participate in initiatives that promote gender equality.

Moreover, providing platforms for open dialogue and sharing experiences fosters a sense of solidarity within the community.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Government

### EDITH DELE-ON GUERRERO

The CNMI's first female Senate president



**Q: What inspired you to become involved in the community?**

**A:** Coming back home and seeing the hardship of our people and their desire to have a better life for their families to this day gave me the reason and inspiration to seek to be involved unselfishly in some way that could be impactful and meaningful.

**Q: Can you share an experience or achievement that empowered women and promoted gender equality?**

**A:** Many years ago around the same time to celebrate women, as a private citizen, I requested +Daling Ogunoro if she would allow me to publish an investment article in her local business magazine and she did and I am forever thankful to her. To further the desire to empower women, I asked the WAO director at the time—I believe it was Ms. Ana Teregeyo—if she would allow me to bring in investment financial manag-

er friends of mine from Guam to provide financial literacy workshops for women here on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It was so humbling and exciting to see so many women come out to participate in their financial empowerment workshops while, at the same time, shaping the way for the opportunity that as women they also can achieve financial equality and empowerment through knowledge.

**Q: Was there ever a time when you had to challenge societal norms and stereotypes?**

**A:** Growing up the norm of women must stay home and not work seems common. This was the defining moment for me to see it differently where I purposely applied for a job pretty much to test acceptance and to validate our ability as women to be just as capa-

ble as the opposite gender.

**Q: How can individuals, businesses, and governments create an environment where women can thrive?**

**A:** We need to break down and go beyond the barrier of gender and be seen in any setting as individuals who have capabilities that can be complementing not just individual success but organizational success as well.

**Q: Can you share how mentorship has played a role in your own journey, and how you support other women in similar ways?**

**A:** The best mentorship from childhood to adulthood is from my grandmother, Carmen. I share this experience with other women by encouraging them to identify that one very meaningful and special person in their life and to remain reminded of how they have become the women they are. It is because of that someone who molded our being with such unselfish tender loving care.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Sports

### TANIA TAN

■ First NMI female athlete to win two gold medals in the Pacific Games

■ First athletic gold of the CNMI in the Pacific Games



**Q: What drives you to make a difference?**

**A:** My dad inspired me to become actively involved in my community. Growing up, my dad always taught me the importance of giving back to the community. I have witnessed him help out the community during times of crisis such as in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether that be through donations or simply volunteering, his actions throughout all these years have influenced me in how I should approach the future in life.

**Q: Can you share a memorable experience or achievement?**

**A:** According to the Women's Sports Foundation, by the age of 14, girls are dropping out of sports at twice the rate of boys. Women in Sport's research found that over one million teenage girls who once considered

themselves "sporty" drop out of sport following primary school.

Because of this, I think the fact that I am continuing to run competitively after high school and college is important in women's sports. By participating in competitive running beyond traditional school settings, I hope to serve as a visible and active role model for other women and girls interested in athletics, whatever sport that may be. If other girls see women continue to pursue their passion for sports beyond college, I feel that it can inspire younger generations to follow and believe in their athletic potential. I hope to inspire the idea that women can excel in sports at any stage of life and that there are opportunities for continued

growth and achievement beyond their teenage years.

**Q: Was there ever a time when you had to challenge societal norms and stereotypes?**

**A:** One time, I entered a running race where there was only one category, where the women had to race against the men. In this race, I remember coming in first overall, including among all the men. I remember the event organizers were hesitant and didn't believe that I came in first overall, even among the men and they almost refused to give me my medal, just because it was a "girl" who came in first.

To overcome this stereotype suggesting that women are not as physically capable as men, I used my voice to speak out and fight for my recognition. I told myself that I shouldn't be scared or embarrassed to tell them that I came in first and won the race among everybody.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## Q&A with CNMI's Woman of Excellence in Sports

### KIANA "BABY K" CAMACHO

First woman to play in the Saipan Baseball League



**Q: As the first woman ever to play at the highest level of baseball in the CNMI, to whom would you attribute this?**

**A:** I owe everything to my family. They got me involved with sports, which led to a lot of friendships and opportunities to give back to my community.

**Q: Can you share a memorable experience or achievement?**

**A:** My biggest accomplishment to date is being Saipan's first female major league player. To ensure fair participation and achievement for everyone, it emphasizes the significance of representation and ongoing efforts to promote gender equality in sports.

**Q: In your opinion, what are some of the biggest challenges women face today?**

**A:** In my opinion, women face numerous challenges, including gender-based violence, unequal access to

education, gender pay gap, lack of political representation, and restricted reproductive rights. By working together and advocating for systemic change, individuals and communities can contribute to creating a more just, inclusive, and equitable world for females around the world.

**Q: Can you discuss a time when you had to challenge societal norms and stereotypes?**

**A:** Eliminating myths and proving that a person's gender shouldn't be a barrier to opportunity. Challenging societal norms and stereotypes opened the door for more diversity in athletics and serves as an inspiration to young ladies. The only way to overcome certain barriers is to at least try something out

of your comfort zone. If you don't get out of your comfort zone, the less likely you are to experience greatness.

**Q: How can individuals, businesses, and governments create an environment where women can thrive?**

**A:** All things considered, successful cooperation between people, organizations, and governments requires a common dedication to promoting gender equality, along with a willingness to listen, learn, and take action to address the unique challenges faced by women in both professional and personal spheres.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

**DREAMS**

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"I enrolled in [NMTech] online. My instructors were great! I am grateful for their time, patience, and their guidance. As for [the NMTech] leadership, they are encouraging and very approachable people and assist in setting up internship training for the students," said Lieto.

She is appreciative of her NMTech education and what it has done for her as a woman entrepreneur and others like her.

"Women are the caretakers of the world. It is our role to nourish, mold, and feed our communities. Just as we've taught our kids to reach for the stars, as women we should never stop improving ourselves. Through NMTech, I was able to improve my skills, which led me to fulfilling both my personal and career goals."

Recognizing the potential of every student to succeed, Ada says the trades school has created an atmosphere that is encouraging and conducive to learning.

"At NMTech, we allow our students to learn and explore the trades, providing them space to grow, personally and professionally. Women who take advantage of our

programs challenge the stereotype that men are the only ones who can succeed in professions that require both brains and strength."

Ada encourages women to continue investing in themselves and their education and to allow themselves to become self-sufficient.

"There is no limit to what we as women can accomplish is a quote from former First Lady Michelle Obama that I keep to heart. Every woman should remain resilient, staying true to oneself, even when it feels like all the odds are against you. Allow yourself to grow and always celebrate your wins, big or small."

Individuals who are interested in learning a trade or enhancing their skills at NMTech may apply and submit documentary requirements through the online portal <https://portal.nmtechcnmi.org/>.

NMTech's services are open to all, and there are staff from NMTech and the CNMI Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency who can provide information on financial aid. Call (670) 235-6684, email [admissions@nmtechcnmi.org](mailto:admissions@nmtechcnmi.org) or visit NMTech's website at <https://www.nmtechcnmi.org/> to learn more about NMTech's course offerings.

**A woman is the full circle.  
Within her is the power to  
create, nurture, and transform.**

**- Diane Mariechild**

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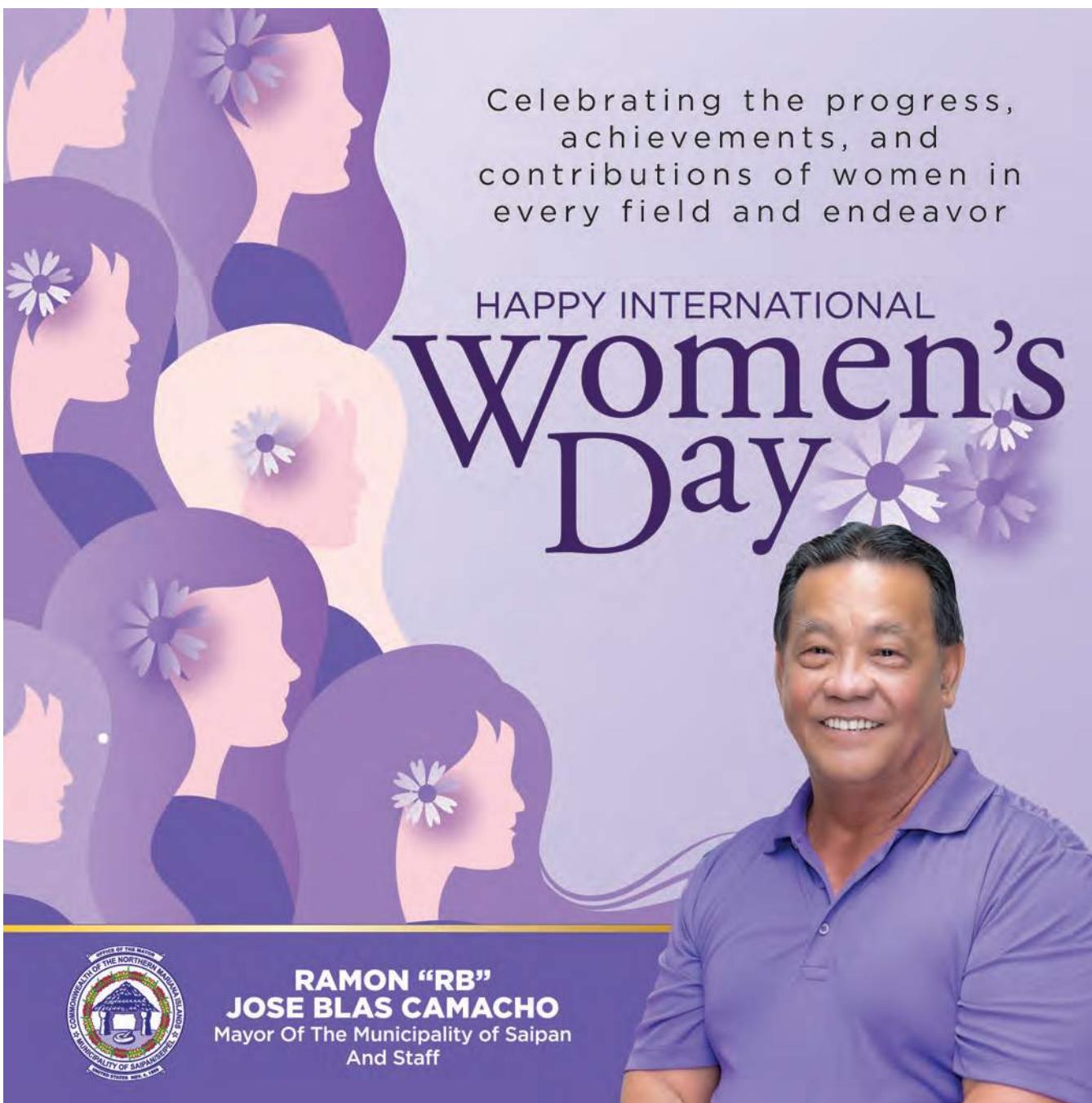
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**RAMON "RB"  
JOSE BLAS CAMACHO**  
Mayor Of The Municipality of Saipan  
And Staff

## WOMEN

From page 11

ing others, to help others shine and grow with enthusiasm, passion, and love, and to be available to serve my community.

My loving wife, Rose Laxamana Diaz, taught me to balance life as a whole (family, religion, fitness/ sports training, teaching/education), to focus and prioritize what is important while enjoying the process, to accept failures and learn from them, to be a role model for our two daughters, Hana and Maja, to remember where we started, to appreciate the little things in life, and to have integrity and perform daily activities with honor and gratefulness.



**JERRY DIAZ**

Champion and gold medalist - open weight and belt class  
Shinkyokushinkai Karate Championship 2023 in Guam

When asked, "Which woman has inspired you the most?" I have to say that there were many, all serving in different roles and levels of growth/comfort for me. Through my stepmother, I learned love and compassion for family. Two aunts, Betty and Rita, taught me the importance of family and perseverance. When I became an adult, my mother became my best friend. My wife has taught me that there is nothing that we cannot achieve as long as we are together! She is also the mother of my baby girl, "Peanut." With my boys, we were going to conquer the world. But my grandmother, Helen Doram, was my champion. To her, I hung the moon and the stars.

My life has been blessed beyond measure with a multitude of great women, from my great-grandmother to my wife, YongWen. I would not be who I am today without them in my life!

**DR. TAI D. DORAM**  
Behavioral specialist

See WOMEN on Page 21

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-PROVERBS 31:25*

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Women's Day**

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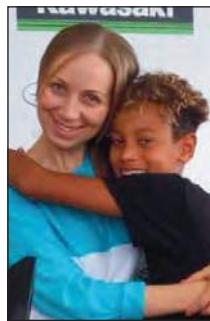
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**WOMEN**

From page 20

The woman who inspired me and made me push through difficulties and motivated me was my mom. Without my mom, I wouldn't be where I am today. I'm very grateful my mom is in my life and she pushed me to achieve my goals. There were some times when I wanted to quit swimming but she made sure I didn't and motivated me to stay, and I'm very grateful for that. She encourages me to do my best and to be motivated. I am so happy to have a woman like my mom who cares about me very much.

**ISAIAH ALEKSENKO**

Gold medalist for swimming (200m Butterfly), Pacific Games 2023

Patricia Coleman inspires me to strive for the best version of myself. I suspect this is true for many others who know her or have had some interaction with her many admirable qualities. She is a highly articulate and effective communicator. She empowers and advocates for the needs of a wide range of groups in our community. She has the charisma to bring the right people together to rally around causes that promote a healthy, vibrant community. Her decisions and actions are decisive, thoughtful, inclusive, and equitable. She is transparent with and operates consistently through her values, which builds and sustains trust in groups she leads. She embraces the power of science as a tool to rigorously investigate problems and find solutions, yet is motivated in all things by her deep faith in God.

**LEO PANGELINAN**

Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council



*Happy International*

# WOMEN'S DAY

Saipan Tribune joins the world in celebrating women in all walks of life and empowering them.

To our strong, determined, powerful, and talented women, you are the heart and the driving force of this company, salute to you!

**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

# Happy International WOMEN'S DAY

In observance of "Women's International Day", we would like to commemorate today our Founder and beloved † Felicidad "Daling" Taman Ogumoro, a beacon of strength, compassion, and unwavering dedication to serving our community. Her remarkable contributions, especially to the CNMI Women's Association and the women of our Commonwealth Islands, leave an indelible mark in our hearts.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ghilisow Ms. "Daling" for leaving a great legacy to the Women of the CNMI that you have touched and inspired one way or another with your unselfish kindness, love, support and dedication.

*"We will forever cherish your legacy"*

We remain,

**CNMI Women's Association Board of Directors**

Sharina R. Clark, Jessibelle P. Loomis, Rita F. Mettao-Castro, Maria Annamae G. Adaza  
Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai, Dorsha Moreno, Erica Sonoda Thornburgh  
Staff: Linda T. Cabrera, Executive Director

**OUR MISSION**

The CNMI Women's Association (CWA) strives to empower women for leadership as guardians of our guinaha (assets); both tangible and intangible to include political, economic, and social leadership. CWA provides education and training opportunities, mentorship, advocacy, and information and referral services in a culturally competent and nurturing way. It fosters konfiansa (self-confidence) and commitment in women to maximize their potential to positively impact our families.

**CWA**  
CNMI WOMENS  
ASSOCIATION

May we continue to inspire inclusion, break down barriers, and create a future where all women are included, appreciated, and empowered.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL  
**Women's  
DAY**



From the management and staff of



Tan Siu Lin  
Foundation

# Coast Guard conducts security boardings on cruise ships in Guam

By CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

**SARA MUIR**  
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector  
Guam

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—In operations ensuring the safety and security of Guam's maritime borders, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam personnel successfully conducted security boarding on the MS *Zuiderdam*, a Vista-class cruise ship operated by Holland America Line, upon its arrival on Feb. 18, and the MS *Artania*, chartered since 2011 by Phoenix Reisen, a German-based operator, on Feb. 25, 2024.

These operations underscore the commitment of the U.S. Coast Guard to safeguarding the Port of Guam and the larger region's maritime domain.

"The Sector Boarding Team's operations are integral to our mission of protecting the maritime gateways to Guam and the surrounding region," said Lt. Chelsea Garcia, the lead boarding officer for the evolution. "By checking a ship's paperwork, getting to know the crew, and making sure all the right security steps are in place—and by teaming up with global efforts like the International Port Security Program—the SBT makes sure ships are following the strictest safety rules. It's all about keeping the people and our waters safe while staying connected with the world."

The MS *Zuiderdam*, carrying 1,159 passengers and 761 crew members, was met at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard's Sector Boarding Team (SBT) before arriving in port at the Port Authority of Guam at 7:30am on Feb. 14, 2023. The MS *Artania*, carrying 1,031 passengers and 511 crew members, received the same reception on their 7:30am arrival on Feb. 25, 2024.

The SBT is crucial in maintaining maritime safety and security, especially at ports like Guam. Their actions, which include thorough inspections and compliance checks against international standards such as the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, are designed to ensure that commercial vessels do not pose a threat to the port or national security.

These operations are grounded in a commitment to uphold high safety standards, assess security risks, and collaborate with other agencies, including Customs and Border Security. This collaborative approach, under the authority of the U.S. Coast Guard captain of the port, aims to enhance maritime security while minimizing disruptions to marine commerce.

The boarding of the MS *Zui-*



The ship visits, coinciding with the military exercise Cope North 2024 and the visit of the USS *Roosevelt*, further highlight February as a month of significant activity for Guam's ports, tourism, and military sectors. The Port Authority of Guam anticipates three cruise ship arrivals in March and more throughout the year.

"The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector

Guam team remains dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of all maritime activities in its area of responsibility, contributing significantly to the region's economic well-being and the security of our region," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "The security boarding operation, executed by the SBT, is critical to the

U.S. Coast Guard's strategy to enhance maritime security. Through these actions, we not only ensure the safety of those aboard visiting vessels but also enhance the security of our port and contribute to the broader stability of the Pacific maritime region."

## About US Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam

The U.S. Coast Guard For-

ces Micronesia/Sector Guam team focuses on maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania. With a primary presence in Guam and Saipan and around 300 members across Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the team maintains a strong U.S. presence in the Micronesia sub-region and adjacent areas, closely tied to local communities. (USCG)



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg. P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962 Website: www.cnmiports.com

### INVITATION FOR BID

#### PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-007-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

#### PROVIDE AND INSTALL SIX (6) BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL A/C UNITS FRANCISCO M. BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE PAYMENT OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "PROVIDE AND INSTALL SIX (6) BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL A/C UNITS (IFB-007-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MARCH 15, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg. P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962 Website: www.cnmiports.com

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-24

#### SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE FRANCISCO M. BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the Francisco M. Borja/Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI. The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **February 12, 2024**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. CHST, March 15, 2024**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than **ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount**. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LEO B. TUDELA  
Executive Director

## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan  
Tel. No. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315  
www.dcrm.gov.mp



### NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of March 08, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Public Works (DPW)	01/23/2024 SMS-2024-024	Route 310 & Route 38 Road Improvements Project	Tapochao, Chalan Galaidi & Navy Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Board Meeting* 03/20/2024
2. Department of Public Works (DPW)	01/23/2024 SMS-2024-025	Route 317 Road Improvement Project	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Board Meeting* 03/20/2024
3. Canaan Realty, LLC	01/26/2024 Supplemental SMS-2023-102	Construction of 42 Units Housing Project	As Lito, Saipan	Major Siting	Board Meeting* 03/20/2024
4. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	02/26/2024 SSM-2024-029	Placement of Temporary Beachfront Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 03/05/2024
5. Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA)	03/01/2024 SSLR-2024-030	Typhoon Debris Shoreline & In-Water Clean-Up	Island-Wide, Saipan	Shoreline and Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*
6. Rota Mayor's Office	01/23/2024 RPIm-2024-001	Semi Concrete Pavilions	East Harbor, Rota	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 02/07/2024
7. The Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation dba IT&E	02/05/2024 RSWMPICm-2024-002	Micro Trenching	Island-Wide, Rota	Shoreline, Wetlands & Mangrove, Ports & Industrial, Coastal Hazards	Approved* 03/01/2024

NMIAIC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sittings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

The boarding of the MS *Zui-*

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## The Supreme Court was right to keep Trump on the ballot. Now voters should reject him

In ruling that Colorado—and other states—may not bar Donald Trump from the ballot, the Supreme Court has provided necessary clarity about the reach of a once-obscure section of the 14th Amendment aimed at preventing insurrectionists from holding public office.

At a time of paralyzing political polarization, it is notable that the court's holding on Monday was supported by all nine justices. A unanimous decision on this highly partisan issue is welcome, though three Democratic appointees complained that the unsigned majority opinion went too far in saying that Congress must act to enforce the insurrection provision.

It is now clear that if Trump is to be prevented from returning to the White House, he must be rejected by the voters and denied a majority in the electoral college. Whatever the legal merits of the court's ruling, its chief consequence is to bolster democracy.

The Colorado Supreme Court effectively held that under the Constitution voters could be denied the right to decide whether Trump is suitable for a second term. Its ruling barred Trump from the state's Republican primary ballot under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. That provision says that no person who had sworn an oath to support the Constitution may hold public office if that person "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same."

At oral arguments in this case, Justice Elena Kagan, a Barack Obama appointee, seemed to channel the concerns of several justices when she raised the question of "why a single state should decide who gets to be president of the United States."

Monday's unsigned majority opinion picks up on that concern. It says that "state-by-state resolution of the question whether Section 3 bars a particular candidate for president from serving would be quite unlikely to yield a uniform answer consistent with the basic principle that the president . . . represent[s] all the voters in the nation."

All nine justices signed on to this worry about a "patchwork" result. But the three Democratic appointees and Justice Amy Coney Barrett, a Trump appointee, didn't endorse another argument in the majority opinion: that Congress must act to authorize application of Section 3 to federal officeholders and candidates. In a separate opinion Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Ketanji Brown Jackson and Kagan wrote that the majority unnecessarily "shuts the door on other potential means of federal enforcement."

This objection isn't trivial, but it shouldn't overshadow the agreement of all nine justices on the bottom line that states may not use Section 3 to disqualify presidential candidates. As Barrett observed in a brief opinion, "our differences are far less important than our unanimity: All nine justices agree on the outcome of this case. That is the message Americans should take home."

The court wouldn't have to struggle with these issues if Trump, after inspiring a riot at the Capitol with his self-interested claims of election fraud, had slunk out of politics. Officials or

See SUPREME on Page 25



## What will Gen Z voters say in 2024 at polls?

Two years ago, America saw its youngest voters turn out for the midterm elections at rates not seen since 2018, when there was a historic high.

Nearly 25% of Gen Z voters went to the polls in 2022, according to data from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. That is a sizable increase from 2014, when only 13% voted. These young voters may in fact determine who wins the presidency this time around.

Plenty of political issues resonate with this generation, including student debt, violence in America and immigration, which are at the forefront. Whichever party can connect these issues to the everyday lives of this generation will get its support.

Student debt, for example, is an obvious concern. While Gen X, my generation, has the highest average amount of student debt, largely because of how interest rates accrue, those who are 18 to 24 years old are likely to be in college and are concerned about the effect this financial burden will have on their long-term prospects.

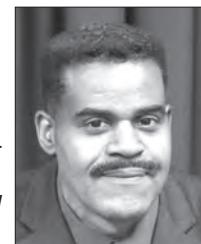
Gen Z grew up during a time when school violence reached unprecedented levels. Consider the devastating shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, Parkland High School and Sante Fe High School in 2018, Oxford High School in 2021 and Robb Elementary School in 2022.

School lockdown drills, in which students, faculty and staff rehearse what to do if there is an active shooter, are an unavoidable part of life now. Nearly 40 states require active shooter drills in schools, according to the investigative news outlet ProPublica. The political party that can empathize with this bracing reality and propose action to address violence in schools will get the support of Gen Z.

Then there is immigration. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which is close to 12 years old, was created as a stopgap measure to prevent the deportation of people without legal residency or citizenship who were brought to the United States as children. Gen Z kids grew up with DACA recipients, attending the same schools with them. Gen Z voters therefore may have a broader perspective on immigration, one that is not as simple as some of

**By JERALD MCNAIR**  
Chicago Tribune

Jerald McNair, who has a doctorate in education and a graduate degree in public policy, is a school administrator for South Holland School District 151.



us would like it to be. Again, whichever party can understand the complexity of this issue will get the support of Gen Z.

I, along with many other educators, have bemoaned the impact that phones and social media platforms continue to have on our youths. By age 12, around 70% of our youth own a smartphone, according to Common Sense Media, giving them access to all the information available on the internet. Regarding social media, the number of teenagers who are active on those platforms hovers between 80% and 90%, studies have shown.

Social media use has been linked to increasing anxiety, depression, cyberbullying and even suicide among youths. At the same time, however, these platforms provide a great deal of information and content that our youths are reading, which makes them more aware of certain issues and topics that are part of our political discussion. In essence, we could argue that social media get youths more involved in politics.

As a school administrator, I work with youths every day. I am no longer surprised to hear them discuss certain news topics. While it often comes in the form of short conversations, sometimes even jokes or light commentary, they are aware of the issues and are thinking about them. It's clear that we must take our youths seriously.

Our young voters are resilient and passionate about having a better democracy. They will speak at the voting booth in 2024. I just hope that we listen to what they have to say, regardless of whom they vote for.

After all, they are the future.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish

and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Remembering when pro athletes lived next door

A friend of mine who lives in Cleveland recently told me a story that calls to mind a time before sports were fundamentally altered by sky-high salaries, exorbitant ticket prices, broadcast rights, team sponsorships, stadium deals, greedy owners and gambling.

My friend, his parents long gone, was unpacking boxes from his childhood home when the news broke that Frank Ryan had died. Ryan was the Cleveland Browns quarterback in 1964, the last time the perpetually inept Browns won an NFL Championship—before there was a Super Bowl.

My friend said that when he heard the news about Ryan, he found a box of things from when he was a boy, including an autographed 8-by-10 photo of Ryan addressed to him: “What a thrilling souvenir for me, a 10-year-old kid, to have an autographed photo from the starting quarterback of the world champions.”

He described how it came to be: “Back in the 1960s, before players made millions of dollars, they typically would rent houses in modest neighborhoods or suburbs. The Browns had a star offensive lineman who blocked for (Browns fullback) Jim Brown. His name was Mike McCormack, and he lived down the street from us for one season in one of the same little 1,200-square-foot bungalows that we lived in. Ryan, being the star quarterback, could afford a better place than an offensive lineman, so he lived in Lyndhurst (in Ohio), a big step up from South Euclid where we lived. My sister’s girlfriend babysat for the Ryans on game days, and she got me the photo. I am going to frame it and hang it up here at our house.”

It seems unimaginable today, but most professional ath-

letes were once part of their local communities, and, at least during the season, they lived in neighborhoods, perhaps even down the block from their fans, rather than in gated compounds and palatial estates. This was before money drove sports to new heights.

The story of New York Yankees great Yogi Berra, recounted in the 2022 documentary “It Ain’t Over,” is much the same. Berra was a Hall of Famer who happened to win more World Series championships as a player than anyone else in MLB history.

For his service to baseball and his charitable work, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama. If Yogi were playing today, he would be commanding tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars in compensation. But for decades, he lived unassumingly with his wife and children in the New York suburb of Montclair, New Jersey.

He won Most Valuable Player awards and World Series with the Yankees; he also worked offseason jobs, such as running a Christmas tree lot, working in a hardware store and a menswear shop, and managing a bowling alley. For an offseason personal appearance, he reportedly was paid with a wristwatch.

Even Willie Mays, regarded by many as the greatest living MLB player, lived in a modest first-floor Harlem apartment when he moved to New York to play with the Giants, before they decamped to San Francisco. Rumor has it he learned to hit a curveball by swinging a mop handle to hit a Spaldeen on the streets of Harlem in neighborhood stickball games with local youths. On game days, he would walk from his home to the Polo Grounds, the Giants’ stadium. No taxi and certainly no

By CORY FRANKLIN

Chicago Tribune

Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician and the author of the forthcoming book “The COVID Diaries 2020-2024: Anatomy of a Contagion As It Happened.”



limousine for the legend known as the “Say Hey Kid.”

British author L.P. Hartley opened his classic novel “The Go-Between” with the memorable line, “The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.” The influx of money into sports has on balance been a positive development. Players are compensated more fairly, even luxuriously, and the financial incentive for players and teams makes for a more competitive product for fans. Female college athletes such as Angel Reese and Caitlin Clark, who essentially played for free until recent changes allowed college athletes to earn compensation from advertisers, can justifiably become millionaires.

But with these rewards accruing to those who fill arenas, something is lost, and there is an ineffable sadness to realize that my friend’s experience is unlikely to be repeated today. A 10-year-old will probably never again know the excitement of getting an autographed photo from the star NFL quarterback who lives in the neighborhood. It is a thrill gone for good.

## 3 surprising lessons for US medicine from around the world

During my residency at Stanford, I traveled to Mexico with a group of surgeons to operate on children with cleft lips and palates. On the first day, I watched in awe as the team leader meticulously realigned the tissues of the lip, mouth and nose of a 3-month-old boy, leaving behind nothing but a faint scar—all in just 90 minutes.

I immediately fell in love with plastic and reconstructive surgery. As a surgeon, I visited more than a dozen countries to repair the cleft lips and palates of children. But later, in my leadership role as CEO at Kaiser Permanente, extended travel proved impossible. And I missed those trips dearly.

Recently I made my first global surgery mission in many years. Not only did our time in the Philippines reignite my passion for global surgery, but it also left me with three surprising lessons for American health care:

Without mission and purpose, medicine proves exhausting

Surgical trips are physically and emotionally demanding. Far from the sterilized corridors of American hospitals, you are plunged into environments where resources are scarce and the needs overwhelming. In remote towns and underdeveloped cities, you operate in tight spaces with erratic electricity and limited clean water. The days stretch long, with five to seven surgeries in a 12-hour day.

Each child you treat carries a story of hardship and hope, their families’ eyes filled with a mix of fear and optimism. And just as you start to tire from the heat and yearn for a good night’s sleep, another mother arrives. She has walked for two days through the mountains with a child in her arms, praying her baby can be added to the surgical schedule. There is no saying “no” to this. You immediately become reinvigorated.

After a physically trying week, you return to the United States not exhausted, but emotionally replenished. Nearly every clinician who has participated in a surgical mission feels the exact same way.

American health care today obscures the fundamental mission and purpose that motivates clinicians. Physicians find themselves ensnared in a web of administrative tasks and insurance disputes. For many doctors, this noble calling has become just a job.

To revive the profession and address the burnout crisis that affects more than 60% of clinicians, a renaissance of purpose is imperative.

To get there, we must pivot away from the transactional “fee for service” financial model that rewards doctors for the sheer quantity of services rendered. In its place: a reimbursement model led by clinicians who are paid based on the quality of clinical outcomes achieved.

Inherent in the privilege of healing is the duty to lead this transformation. Taking on that accountability—and thereby eliminating the

care restrictions that insurance companies impose—will rejuvenate, not further fatigue, health care professionals.

American doctors are excellent but so are physicians around the globe

U.S. physicians believe that training outside the States is a second-rate education. It’s time to alter that perspective.

During my week in the Philippines, I had the pleasure to work alongside five local physicians, often at adjoining operating room tables. They’d trained in residency and fellowship programs all around the world to maximize their expertise. To a person, their results matched the leading pediatric hospitals in the United States.

Although American doctors have access to the best facilities, machines and materials, physicians in other nations have a competitive advantage that comes from higher volume. The best way to hone any medical skill is through repetition and experience. American surgeons lag their global colleagues in this area.

U.S. clinicians bring a wealth of knowledge that can greatly benefit doctors worldwide, yet there are equally rich lessons to learn from the experiences and practices of physicians abroad.

In the U.S. today, doctors adhere to minimum surgical volume standards. Patient outcomes would improve tremendously if, instead, our nation set benchmarks for superior performance. Combining high-volume surgical experience with our advanced technologies and top-notch facilities would produce superlative clinical outcomes.

But first, America’s health care professionals need to embrace humility and be open to learning from our global colleagues.

U.S. resources are vast but access is still scarce

In countries like the Philippines, health care challenges are magnified by economic constraints. Despite government coverage, per capita health care spending remains low, under \$200 annually. This financial reality forces difficult choices, leaving significant gaps between the health care needs of the population and the services available.

Witnessing these disparities firsthand is a poignant reminder of the abundance the United States enjoys, with health care spending now exceeding \$13,000 per American. And yet, despite our nation’s wealth, independent studies reveal that U.S. health care ranks last among a dozen wealthy nations and near the bottom of 38 OECD countries in more than a dozen health measures.

The United States has earned its distinction as home to the most expensive and least effective health care system in the developed world. This isn’t just because of our 30 million uninsured citizens (and tens of millions who are underinsured). It’s

By ROBERT PEARL

The Fulcrum

Robert Pearl is a clinical professor of plastic surgery at the Stanford University School of Medicine and is on the faculty of the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He is a former CEO of The Permanente Medical Group.



the result of decades of underinvestment in primary care, tolerance of inefficient hospital systems and exorbitant drug prices.

The challenge of transforming American health care is daunting, and it requires a willingness to embrace change and confront uncomfortable truths. Observing the efficiency and ingenuity of less affluent nations inspires a reevaluation of our own care-delivery practices and health care finances.

The biggest problem in our health care system isn’t a lack of money. It’s the deficit in leadership and innovation.

Volunteering on global missions offers invaluable perspectives that could catalyze change in the United States. I’m optimistic that by learning from countries that achieve remarkable outcomes with modest means, we can enhance clinical outcomes, reduce clinician burnout, and make quality health care accessible and affordable for all Americans.

## SUPREME

From page 24

aggrieved voters in Colorado, California and other states might not have contemplated it at all if Republican politicians and voters had seen Trump for what he is: a narcissist who nearly destroyed our democracy with his attempts to overthrow the results of the 2020 election.

That alone should disqualify him in voters’ eyes. His own statements since launching his reelection bid make clear that he would return chaos to the Oval Office, fray relations with U.S. allies and exacerbate racial and other divisions.

Neither the Supreme Court nor the Constitution will relieve voters of the responsibility to face facts about his obvious unfitness for another presidential term.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131



### Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 24-062

Opening Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
Closing Date: Monday, March 18, 2024

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Rota Administration
LOCATION:	Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Rota Resident Manager or his/her designee.

#### Duties:

- Updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services.
- Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits.
- Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status.
- Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources.
- Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files, records, reports and accounting transaction documentation.
- Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

#### Minimum Requirements:

**Education:** High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education Program.

**Knowledge of:** Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

#### Licensing:

- Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org).

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-015

#### A-16 SEWER LIFT STATION UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Upgrade project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the installation of a new polymer pre-cast concrete wet well to replace the existing A-16 wet well; installation of OFCI submersible pumps and accessories; new aboveground valve station and appurtenances with concrete pad; installation of new bar screen to replace existing A-1 bar screen; rehabilitation of existing A-16 bar screen; installation of new gravity sewer mains and manholes; installation of H2S controls; reconnection to existing lift station force main; procurement of a portable pumping system with trailer and concrete pad; installation of temporary bypass pumping operations and dewatering; site improvements with new chain-link fence, two vehicular gate, and a pedestrian gate; asphaltic concrete pavement driveways with partial compacted base course area; installation of new and replacement of existing gate valves; demolition of existing minor structures and electrical upgrade. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days from date of award of contract.

**The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-015, A-16 SEWER LIFT STATION UPGRADE**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) March 14, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond **executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety**. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond **must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety**. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on March 1, 2024** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Ms. Nicolette Villagomez, CUC's Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email at [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org), and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician – via email at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJA  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

# Business

## Classic Reuben sandwich at Hyatt Regency Saipan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Savor every bite of Hyatt Regency Saipan's Reuben sandwich, available for the whole month of March.



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 4 Year-Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW

#### AMENDMENT to the CNMI TTIP FY'23-26

Please visit [dpw.gov.mp](http://dpw.gov.mp) or [transit.cnmi.gov](http://transit.cnmi.gov) to view Amendment 1 to the plan.

For more information or to submit comments, email Lorraine Villagomez at [lvillagomez.highway@dpw.gov.mp](mailto:lvillagomez.highway@dpw.gov.mp) or Lauren Terlaje at [iterlaje.highway@dpw.gov.mp](mailto:iterlaje.highway@dpw.gov.mp) for FHWA funded projects or call (670) 234-9828. For COTA's FTA Funded Projects, call (670) 664-2682 or email Alfreda Camacho Maratita at [alfredac.maratita@gov.mp](mailto:alfredac.maratita@gov.mp).

COMMENT PERIOD:  
FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 22, 2024

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Man Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
Website: [www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)



#### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

#### FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL ROOF LEAK REPAIRS Project No. CPA-SA-001-24

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Terminal Roof Leak Repairs Project at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-001-24.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or Ms. Sheri Llagas at [receptionist@cnmiports.com](mailto:receptionist@cnmiports.com).

Questions regarding this request must be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, March 8, 2024.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA  
Executive Director

Date: February 12, 2024

For the month of March, try a different kind of sandwich—the classic Reuben sandwich at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Enjoy every bite of tender and juicy corned beef, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, on toasted, homemade marble rye bread, serviced with either salad or French fries.

The Reuben sandwich is available daily a la carte across all dining venues at \$20. Either at Kili Café & Terrace overlooking the resort during lunch from 11:30am to 2pm or dinner periods from 6pm to 9pm, Skipper's Beach Bar pre and post sunsets from 4:30pm to 8:30pm or along the pool at Splash Bar, weekends from 11:30am to 8:30pm.

In addition, on March 17, 2024, come and join Hyatt on St. Patrick's Day at Giovanni's Sunday Brunch from 11am to 2pm at \$60 per person. Aside from the culinary array of dishes, Giovanni's will establish a Reuben sandwich-making counter where you have the opportunity to make your own Reuben sandwich. With the traditional consistent pour of sparkling wine along the Sunday Brunch, on this occasion we will serve free flow of Guinness Beer.

For reservations or more information, visit [saipan.regency.hyatt.com](http://saipan.regency.hyatt.com) or call (670) 323-5870. (PR)

## CNMITax.com updated for 2023 tax returns

CNMITax.com has been updated for the 2023 tax season, enabling CNMI residents to prepare their tax returns conveniently from their own home or office.

CNMITax.com is specifically designed for people who have only W-2CM salary/wage income from the CNMI and 0 to 4 qualified U.S. dependents. Users can get a free estimation of their expected tax refund or tax due amount, before deciding if they want to pay for the tax return and receive it as a PDF file for download and printing. The maximum refund with 4 qualified U.S. dependents is \$13,830.

The service costs \$8, \$15, or \$35 depending on the taxpayer's needs.

After preparing their tax return on CNMITax.com, users should download and print the tax return, sign on Page 6, make one copy, and file it at the CNMI Division of Revenue & Taxation.

For more details, visit [CNMITax.com](http://CNMITax.com) or contact [support@cnmitax.com](mailto:support@cnmitax.com). (PR)

# Life & Style

## 'Rust' armorer convicted of involuntary manslaughter

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A jury convicted a movie weapons supervisor of involuntary manslaughter Wednesday in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by actor Alec Baldwin during a rehearsal on the set of the Western movie "Rust."

The verdict against movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed assigned new blame in the October 2021 shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins after an assistant director last year pleaded no contest to negligent handling of a firearm.

Gutierrez-Reed also had faced a second charge of tampering with evidence, stemming from accusations that she handed a small bag of possible narcotics to another crew member after the shooting



to avoid detection. She was found not guilty on that count.

Immediately after the verdict was read in court, the judge ordered the 26-year-old armorer placed into the custody of deputies. Lead attorney Jason Bowles said afterward that Gutierrez-Reed will appeal the conviction, which carries a penalty of up to 18 months in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Santa Fe-based state district court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer did not immediately set a sentencing date.

Baldwin, the lead actor and a co-producer on "Rust," was indicted by a grand jury in January on a charge of involuntary manslaughter. He was pointing a gun at Hutchins on a movie set outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, when the gun went off, killing the cinematographer and wounding director Joel Souza.

The trial was a preamble to Baldwin's trial scheduled in July. He has pleaded not guilty.

Messages seeking comment about Wednesday's verdict from Baldwin's spokeswoman and a lawyer were not immediately returned.

Prosecutors said at trial that Gutierrez-Reed unknowingly brought live ammunition onto the movie set, and it remained there for at least 12 days before the fatal shooting, giving the armorer plenty of time to remove it.

In closing arguments, prosecutor Kari Morrissey described "constant, never-ending safety failures" on the set of "Rust" and Gutierrez-Reed's "astonishing lack of diligence" with gun safety.

"We end exactly where we began—in the pursuit of justice for Halyna Hutchins,"

Morrissey told jurors. "Hannah Gutierrez failed to maintain firearms safety, making a fatal accident willful and foreseeable."

Prosecutors also contend that the armorer repeatedly skipped or skimped on standard gun-safety protocols that might have detected the live rounds.

"This was a game of Russian roulette every time an actor had a gun with dummies," Morrissey said.

An attorney for Hutchins' parents and sister issued a statement expressing their satisfaction with Wednesday's verdict.

"Today was the first trial and conviction in the criminal justice process," said the statement from Gloria Allred on behalf of parents Olga Solovey and Anatoli Androsovych and Hutchins' sister, Svetlana Zemko. "We look forward to the justice system continuing to make sure that everyone else who is responsible for Halyna's death is required to face the legal consequences."

Inside the courtroom Wednesday, Gutierrez-Reed's mother reacted with dismay at the conviction, bursting into tears and cursing the proceedings as her daughter was led away.

Defense attorneys told jurors that the problems on the set extended far beyond Gutierrez-Reed's control, including the mishandling of weapons by Baldwin, citing sanctions and findings by state workplace safety investigators.

The defense also cast doubt on accusations that Gutierrez-Reed brought live rounds to the set and said an Albuquerque-based ammunition supplier was never fully investigated.

## Charges dropped midtrial in 'Hotel California' lyrics case

NEW YORK (AP)—From the start, the case was highly unusual: a criminal prosecution centered on the disputed ownership of a cache of hand-drafted lyrics to "Hotel California" and other Eagles hits.

Its end was even more unexpected.

In the middle of trial, New York prosecutors abruptly dropped their case Wednesday against three collectibles experts who had been accused of scheming to hang onto and peddle the pages, which Eagles co-founder Don Henley maintained were stolen, private artifacts of the band's creative process.

In explaining the stunning turnaround, prosecutors agreed that defense lawyers had essentially been blindsided by 6,000 pages of communications



Former Rock & Roll Hall of Fame curator Craig Inciardi smiles as he leaves court, Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in New York.

ecution witnesses testified late last month, Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Aaron Giannades told the court.

With that, rare books dealer Glenn Horowitz, former Rock & Roll Hall of Fame curator Craig Inciardi and rock memorabilia seller Edward Kosinski were cleared of all the charges. They had included conspiracy to criminally possess stolen property.

The case centered on roughly 100 pages of legal-pad pages, many from the creation of a classic rock colossus. The 1976 album "Hotel California" ranks as the third-biggest seller of all time in the U.S., in no small part on the strength of its evocative, smoothly unsettling title track about a place where "you can check out any time you like, but you can never leave."

involving Henley and his attorneys and associates. Prosecutors and the defense got the material only in the past few days, after Henley and his lawyers apparently made a late-in-the-game decision to waive their attorney-client privilege shielding legal discussions.

"These delayed disclosures revealed relevant information that the defense should have had the opportunity to explore" when Henley and other pros-

pecting witnesses testified late last month, Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Aaron Giannades told the court.

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## Discovery of lunch plans derails couple's marriage

**D**EAR ABBY: I have known my husband for 10 years. We have been married for four. We love each other very much, but I did something that has caused him to no longer trust me, and he won't forgive me. I went to a pub while my husband was at a class. I told him I was going to the pub and he was fine with it. We know everybody who works there very well.

The problem is, a nice man sat down a seat away from me and we started talking about all kinds of stuff. At the end of the evening, we exchanged phone numbers. He texted me a week later wanting to know if I could meet him for lunch. I said yes—big mistake—but we DIDN'T meet because I realized it would be wrong.

My husband saw his text on my phone, and he is upset and angry. He hasn't spoken to me since. It's been almost a week. He said he can no longer trust me, and he won't accept my apologies or forgive me. What can I do?

LOSING LOVE IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR LOSING:** Although your intentions may have been innocent, for your husband to have found out about the planned lunch the way he did couldn't have been worse. Had you told him you met someone "nice" and had been invited to lunch, it might not have made him angry. I don't blame him for feeling he may not be able to trust you.

**Remind him that you did not GO to that lunch. Tell him you love him and ask what you need to do to earn back that trust. Ask if he would go to counseling with you. However, if you are unable to do that, accept that your marriage is toast. What a shame.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister "Claudia" recently asked me on a Saturday to take her to the eye doctor the following Tuesday. Well, I forgot. She didn't call me the night before (like normal people do) to remind me, nor did she call me the next day to confirm. She did call our cousin to take her. (She should have called me that day instead of calling our cousin.)

Now Claudia is mad at me. I think it was both our faults—mine because I forgot. (There is a lot going on here. My mother-in-law, who has dementia, lives here and it has grown worse.) It was also Claudia's fault for not calling me.

She told me it was an important follow-up appointment and she was really upset. Is she being childish? By the way, Claudia is 13 years older than I am and has always been jealous of me. Please give me your opinion.

JUST PLAIN FORGOT IN OHIO

**DEAR "FORGOT":** Oh, my goodness. You are human and you forgot! I don't think it was a hanging offense. However,

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

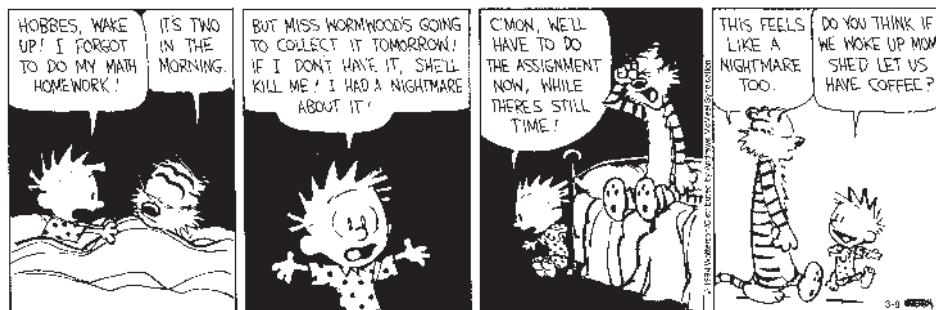
**Claudia managed to come up with a Plan B and the cousin saved the day. See how resourceful she can be in a pinch?**

**In the future, when your hands are full—and from what you have described about your mother-in-law, it is safe to assume they will be—when Sissy asks you to take her to a medical appointment, perhaps Plan B should become Plan A.**

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®



By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

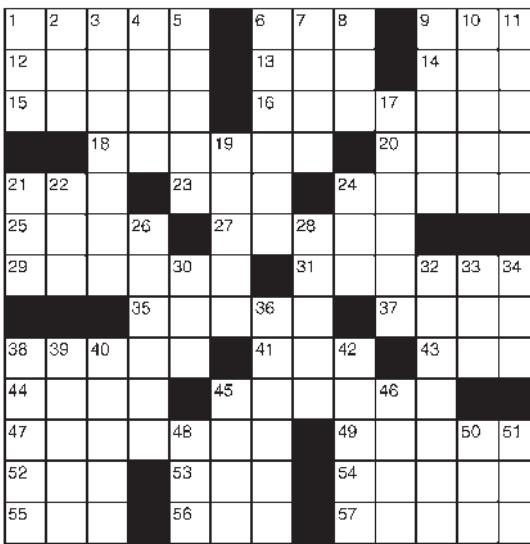
## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41	Derek	DOWN	10	Swimming
1	Dam on	and	1	Visual	spots
the Nile	Diddley		11	Color	anew
6	Hit hard		17	Wretched	
9	EMT's		19	Spud	
skill			21	Japanese	sash
12	English		22	— de	plume
county			24	As well	
13	Curvy		26	Sad state	
letter			28	Hose	material
14	Garden		30	Almond,	e.g.
tool			32	Ornamental	garden
15	Slow		7	Now, on a	tree
musical			33	Before	
tempo			34	Slugger	Williams
16	Blondie's		36	Tolerates	
mate			38	Sufficient	
18	Increased		39	Hoops	
20	Uncutuous		40	To date	
21	Artist		42	Glitches	
Yoko			45	Wee	wriggler
23	Pouch		46	Oklahoma	tribe
24	Pithy		48	Feedbag	morsel
25	Greets		50	Piano	support
the villain			51	Caustic	cleaner
27	1:50, say				
29	"All				
finished!"					
31	"Sure				
thing!"					
35	Countri-fied				
37	Traditional				
tales					
38	Separated				



Yesterday's answer 3-8



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

**STUMPED?**

## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

James Van Der Beek, 47; Freddie Prinze Jr., 48; Camryn Manheim, 63; Aidan Quinn, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** Rise above controversy this year. Deal with situations before they have a chance to grow. Be clear regarding your wants and needs if someone tries to invade your privacy or space or to pressure you to get involved in something. Don't be afraid to do your own thing and to say no to anyone trying to change or manipulate you. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 26, 32, 37, 43.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Personal gain is a priority. Don't waste time on empty promises or big talkers who don't deliver. Put your energy where it will do you some good. A "me first" attitude and protecting yourself will spare you from being taken for granted. **★★★★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Don't offer more than you can deliver. It's time to update before it's too late. Keep your life simple, take care of your business before you offer to help others and refuse to let compliments and manipulative people throw you off track. **★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Tread carefully. Say little, do a lot and leave no room for error. Be aware of other agendas and steer clear of being used for your attributes, skills and connections. Focus more on personal improvements and less on trying to change others. **★★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Evaluate situations, know who is on your team and prepare to indulge in pastimes that spark your imagination, bring back

memories and reconnect you to soulmates you want in your inner circle. A change of scenery will motivate you. **★★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't second-guess yourself when you should be questioning others. Put your energy into what makes sense and will bring the highest returns or the most joy. Personal growth will require physical endurance, but it will be worth every ounce of energy you contribute. **★★★**

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the initiative to make things happen. Be the one to spread the word, take on projects and lead the way to positive change. Partnerships look promising if you keep your money separate and set boundaries to protect your rights and reputation. **★★★★**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Relax and have fun. You don't have to break the budget to enjoy life. A reunion with old friends or a walk in the woods or down by the waterfront will spark your imagination and sprout ideas and plans. Romance and self-improvement are favored. **★★★★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't make a rash decision before taking the time to verify information and consider how you'll be affected by what's happening around you. Use your ingenuity, and you'll devise a plan that protects you from what you fear. Change begins with you. **★★★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a breather. You owe it to yourself and those you care about to digest your life choices and decide what's best for you. Don't let outside interference cost you mentally, emotionally or financially. **★★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Evaluate situations, know who is on your team and prepare to indulge in pastimes that spark your imagination, bring back

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGYCOPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't take on someone else's responsibilities when you need to concentrate on what you can do to get ahead or to live the life that suits you best. Your happiness is your responsibility, and the more you do to soothe your soul, the better. **★★★★**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stay calm, regardless of what others do. Distance yourself from situations and people who aren't consistent or make last-minute changes that don't fit your criteria. Focus on what works for you and personal growth. **★★★★**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Being stubborn will deter someone who wants to take advantage of you. Don't let temptation get the better of you. Be direct, don't hesitate to say no and don't pay for something you don't want or for someone else's mistake. Don't share personal information. **★★★★**

**Birthday Baby:** You are insightful, resourceful and persistent. You are bold and persuasive.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **★★**: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **★★★**: Focus and you'll reach your goals. **★★★★**: Aim high; start new projects. **★★★★★**: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3					9	6		
9					2	5	8	
	9	6	2					
7	8		9	5				
2	3		1	8	4			
	4	8		7	6			
5		2	9					
	1							
1				9		3		

Difficulty: ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	1	3	4	9	8	7	2
7	4	3	2	8	6	1	9	5
9	2	8	5	1	7	4	3	6
3	1	6	9	7	2	5	4	8
2	8	7	4	3	5	9	6	1
4	9	5	8	6	1	7	2	3
8	6	4	7	5	3	2	1	9
5	3	9	1	2	4	6	8	7
1	7	2	6	9	8	3	5	4

Difficulty: ★★★★

3/8

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

## GETTING ACQUAINTED

A	P	P	L	I	A	N	C	E	S	S	T	C	A	F
W	D	O	C	U	M	E	N	T	S	L	L	A	C	A
A	B	V	P	R	O	F	E	S	S	O	R	J	C	M
R	O	P	I	H	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	O	U	I
E	S	T	L	S	T	I	M	E	K	D	P	B	S	L
E	S	P	A	E	E	A	S	I	E	E	O	R	T	I
C	R	E	M	L	G	D	T	N	G	O	L	I	O	A
N	O	R	R	O	K	C	E	D	K	L	I	E	M	R
E	B	S	O	R	H	T	E	S	I	T	F	E	E	D
I	H	O	F	E	H	L	C	R	R	F	E	E	D	K
R	G	N	N	G	W	E	L	P	O	E	P	D	E	R
E	I	A	I	O	E	L	G	I	H	E	V	T	S	O
P	E	L	N	E	W	T</td								

# Wizards blow big lead vs. Magic to tie franchise mark with 16th straight loss



**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Franz Wagner scored 28 points, Paolo Banchero added 25 and the Orlando Magic rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat Washington 119-109 on Wednesday night, handing the Wizards their 16th consecutive loss.

Washington (9-53) tied a team record for longest losing streak, matching a skid from the 2009-10 season. The Wizards looked on their way to ending this slide, but were done in by a 44-point second half against one of the league's best defensive teams.

Orlando (37-26) has won eight of nine. It was the largest comeback of the season for the Magic, who last rallied from a 21-point deficit on Jan. 30, 2023, at Philadelphia. The last time Orlando had a bigger comeback was Nov. 21, 2014, at Charlotte, when the team overcame a 23-point deficit to win.

Jordan Poole scored 26 points for Washington, which hasn't won since a victory at San Antonio on Jan. 29. Kyle Kuzma added 25 points for the Wizards, who haven't won at home since Dec. 29 against Brooklyn.

## WARRIORS 125, BUCKS 90

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Stephen Curry had 29 points, Jonathan Kuminga scored 20 and Golden State handed Milwaukee its first defeat since the All-Star break.

After trailing by 20 at halftime, Giannis Antetokounmpo and Damian Lillard led a 19-5 run to start the third and get the Bucks back in it—but Curry, who also had eight rebounds and five assists, went to work again.

Rookie Trayce Jackson-Davis had 15 points along with four of Golden State's season-high 13 blocked shots to match his own career high. Kuminga swatted another three.

Antetokounmpo, who missed Monday night's win



AP

Washington Wizards interim head coach Brian Keefe directs his team during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic, Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in Washington.

at home against the Clippers because of left Achilles tendinitis, had 23 points and seven rebounds after he was questionable coming into the game. Lillard finished with 20 points and six assists in his first game back at Chase Center since being traded by the rival Trail Blazers to the Bucks last October.

## KINGS 130, LAKERS 120

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—De'Aaron Fox tied his career high with 44 points, Malik Monk added 26 and Sacramento bounced back with a victory over Los Angeles.

It was Fox's seventh game this season with at least 40 points, fourth-most in the NBA.

Domantas Sabonis recorded his fourth triple-double in seven games with 16 points, 20 rebounds and 12 assists. He's the sixth player in NBA history with at least 22 triple-doubles in a season.

Sacramento came in having dropped three of its last four, including a 113-109 defeat against Chicago on Monday after it had a 22-point lead late in the third quarter.

LeBron James led the Lakers with 31 points and 13 assists, while Rui Hachimura scored 29.

## HAWKS 112, CAVALIERS 101

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Saddiq Bey scored 23 points and Atlanta recovered after losing a 21-point lead to beat Cleveland.

Bogdan Bogdanovic also scored 23 points for the Hawks, who prevented the Cavaliers from sweeping the four-game season series. Jalen Johnson sprained his right ankle early in the third period and was helped off the court.

One night after erasing a fourth-quarter deficit of 22 points in a 105-104 home win over Boston, the Cavaliers rallied to take the lead after trailing the Hawks by 21 points in the third. This time Cleveland couldn't make the comeback stand.

Jarrett Allen led Cleveland with 18 points and 19 rebounds. Isaac Okoro added 17 points.

## GRIZZLIES 115, 76ERS 109

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Jaren Jackson Jr. had 30 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks, Jake LaRavia had 19 points and 13 rebounds and Memphis used an 11-0 run late in the fourth quarter to rally past Philadelphia.

The Grizzlies trailed by 12 entering the fourth before getting hot in the final minutes much like they did in a win Monday night at Brooklyn. One of the worst teams in the NBA, Memphis has won two

in a row following a five-game losing streak. The Grizzlies outscored the 76ers 34-16 in the fourth.

Kelly Oubre Jr. led the 76ers with 25 points and Paul Reed had 17 points and 11 rebounds.

## CLIPPERS 122, ROCKETS 116

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Kawhi Leonard had 28 points, and Paul George and James Harden each scored 21 as Los Angeles rallied for a win over Houston.

The Clippers trailed by as many as 20 and didn't lead in the second half until there were less than three minutes remaining.

Los Angeles overcame another big night from Houston big man Alperen Sengun, who had 23 points, a season-high 19 rebounds and 14 assists for his fourth career triple-double. It came a night after he scored a career-best 45 points in a win over San Antonio.

Smith added 19 points for Houston and rookie Cam Whitmore had 17.

## BULLS 119, JAZZ 117

**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—DeMar DeRozan scored 29 points, including the go-ahead basket with a minute left, to lead Chicago past Utah.

Coby White scored 25 points, including seven 3-pointers, and had six assists for the Bulls, who survived a

late comeback to beat Utah for the fourth straight time. Nikola Vucevic had 23 points and 12 rebounds.

John Collins led Utah with 25 points and 14 rebounds. Collin Sexton had 24 points and seven assists, and Brice Sensabaugh set career highs with 15 points and 12 rebounds in his first NBA start.

## THUNDER 128, TRAIL BLAZERS 120

**PORTLAND, Ore.** (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 37 points and Oklahoma City

held off a late rally by Portland.

Jalen Williams added 31 points and Chet Holmgren finished with 21 points and a season-high 14 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which led by 18 points.

Anfernee Simons had 29 for the short-handed Blazers, who have been beset by injuries.

Portland closed the gap to 112-107 on Simons' layup before Matisse Thybulle's 3-pointer got the Blazers within two with 4:05 left. Williams ended the threat with a 3-pointer that made it 116-110.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Maxey diagnosed with a concussion and will miss 76ers' game at Brooklyn

**NEW YORK** (AP)—All-Star guard Tyrese Maxey has been diagnosed with a concussion and will miss the Philadelphia 76ers' game in Brooklyn on Tuesday night. Maxey lost his balance on a drive Sunday in the third quarter of a game at Dallas and banged his head on another player's knee. He left the game but was able to return and finish, scoring 24 points in the 76ers' 120-116 victory. However, he was added to the injury report Tuesday afternoon, leaving the 76ers without both of their All-Stars. Joel Embiid remains out after left knee surgery. The 76ers said Maxey was diagnosed with a mild concussion after an evaluation. Coach Nick Nurse said he expected Maxey to also miss the 76ers' home game against Memphis on Wednesday, given the NBA's protocols governing returning to play after a concussion. Nurse said veteran Kyle Lowry would start and likely play heavy minutes in Maxey's absence.

### Memphis Grizzlies' long injury list adds Williams, Rose

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies' injury list keeps growing longer with wing Ziaire Williams out for at least the rest of March and guard Derrick Rose sidelined a minimum of three weeks. The Grizzlies announced Tuesday that Williams has a Grade 2 strain of a hip flexor and his lower back. Williams was hurt in an overtime loss Saturday night to Portland. He will be re-evaluated in four weeks, less than two weeks before Memphis concludes this season April 14. Rose left the second quarter of a loss last week at Minnesota with soreness in his groin and low back. He has been diagnosed with right osteitis pubis and will be re-evaluated in three weeks. Memphis had used 35 different starting lineups and 20 different starters going into Monday night's game at Brooklyn. The Grizzlies snapped a five-game skid with a road win Monday night despite missing Jaren Jackson Jr. and Yuta Watanabe with injuries. The Grizzlies have had starters like two-time All-Star Ja Morant, Desmond Bane and Marcus Smart sidelined for weeks by injuries. Memphis (21-41) currently has the third-worst record in the Western Conference and sixth-worst in the NBA.

## Source: Patty Mills will sign with Heat for remainder of season

**MIAMI** (AP)—Veteran point guard Patty Mills has agreed to sign with the Miami Heat for the remainder of the season, a person with knowledge of the deal said Tuesday.

The Heat will waive injured guard Dru Smith to make room for Mills on the roster, according to the person.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't announced the moves.

Mills played in 19 games with Atlanta off the bench this season before getting waived on Feb. 29, in time to preserve his postseason eligibility with another team. The Heat will be-

come the fifth NBA team that Mills has played for, along with San Antonio, Portland, Brooklyn and the Hawks.

His acquisition is part of a series of changes at guard by Miami in recent weeks. The Heat traded Kyle Lowry to Charlotte for Terry Rozier; Lowry ended up in Philadelphia after a buyout. The Heat also added Delon Wright last month, in part because Josh Richardson has a dislocated shoulder and will have season-ending surgery on Wednesday.

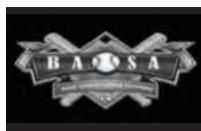
Mills was part of the Spurs teams that played Miami in the 2013 and 2014 NBA Finals—the team's best showing ever in an Olympic or

World Cup tournament.

Mills scored 42 points in that bronze-medal-clinching win over Slovenia in Japan, plus had the honor of being one of Australia's flagbearers for the opening ceremony at that Olympics. That made Mills the first Indigenous Australian to serve as a flag-bearer at any Olympics.

He also donated more than \$1 million to various anti-racism causes in 2020; that figure was the full amount of the salary he earned by joining the Spurs in the NBA's restart bubble at Walt Disney World to finish that season's pandemic-shortened schedule.

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Lady Blue Jays flew over Bat & Boujee, 5-1, in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association women's division last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

It was a slow start for Bat & Boujee but the Lady Blue Jays got two runs in the first inning for an early 2-0 lead. Both teams were not as productive in the second as the Lady Blue Jays went down quickly, but



Lady Blue Jays' Kianu Aldan rushes to home plate during one of their games in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association women's division at the Dandan Softball Field.

LEIGH GASES

## Igisomar leads Quest to win over Chagii Fahan

Goalie Trey Igisomar scored five 2-point ace serves, three 2-point kees, and a 3-point goal in Team Quest's 53-22 victory over Chagii Fan in the 2024 Rocball League last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Founder Jim Feger said Igisomar's recent performance highlights Rocball's status as the first team net sport in the world to create a 3-point scoring system.

He said the 3-point scores of basketball didn't happen until seven years later in 1987.

In Rocball, the person guard-



ing the goals located behind the end of each court is a team's goalie. The goalie is not allowed to be within 10 feet of the net when attempting to hit the ball over the net and the goalie is not allowed to catch a ball in an attempt to keep it out of the goal. And a team's goalie is not only a valuable defensive position, but is an important part of a team's scoring threat. When a goalie of either team spikes the ball for a floor hit, it is called a kee and worth 2 points.

The goalie is a very important player in Rocball as a goalie protects his team's 3-point scor-

ing area and is the only player that can score 2 points from behind the 10-foot front line on court after a served ball.

As for the rest of the scores last week, there are no more undefeated teams in the 2024 Rocball season after Bolley Ballerz lost their first game in overtime against Border Control.

The Bolley Ballerz won the first set, 27-9, but lost the second set 19-16. And although the Bolley Ballerz had more total points scored at the end of the final set than Border Control, in Rocball a team cannot win a game in a losing set. In overtime, and trailing by a point, the

up the flags and buoys and officiate races which is no easy job. Without them, the va'a season would not have been possible. All in all, I hope we can keep these three plaques, and this year is just the start of our triple division win streak."

Weaver says that this was an exceptional season for the Manta Rays. Finishing on top in all three divisions was a total surprise to him. Going into the championship round where all points were doubled, it was still anyone's race. SSHS's boys crew had the biggest cushion as far as points, but Weaver told them to just focus and apply everything they've been working on together, and that's exactly what they did. He believes that the commitment of each paddler on their team is what led them to victory and that their veteran paddlers who contributed to the win were the true leaders this season. He says the only struggle they faced this season was including all paddlers in the races.

Weaver said that he made sure all the students got to paddle in the races before the championships. "When competition calls for only the best, that's when we throw it all down."

He also mentions how he was very content with this season and would do the exact same thing for next year's races. "It doesn't get any better than this," he said.

Weaver explains that the biggest things they've gained from

During the 500m sprint finals, SSHS's mixed crew was even greeted with the presence of an eagle ray that glided peacefully under their canoe as they won their very last race.

On the other hand, MHS and KHS gave each other a good fight as they battled for second place. In the end, the Ayuyus had claimed second place for the boys' division and the Dolphins had claimed second place for the girls' and mixed division.

MHS head coach Tiana Aldan said that she's happy to see more and more students come out each year to learn and try out the sport. "I told my students that it's not about the losses and the wins but it's about what they can learn together, and the memories/friends that they make along the way. I just hope to see more students next year where we're going to come back and take those plaques from Southern."

KHS head coach Mayiah Duenas is a longtime paddler and is one of the fastest in the CNMI, although she says becoming a coach has been a dif-

Bat & Boujee got on board after a run scored by Janice Celis, making it 1-2.

The third inning was over as fast as it came, and at this point, Bat & Boujee were just trying to tie up the game before their opponent could score any more.

But the Lady Blue Jays' Kiana Camacho would score in the fourth, followed by two more runs in the fifth by Angel Deleon Guerrero and Allannah Sablan, for a 5-1 game.

Bat & Boujee then went on to be shut down by Lady Blue Jays' pitching, as they made

Ballers got the serve and lost a point. That tied the overtime set at 3-3. Border Control eventually scored a point off one serve and won the overtime set, 5-3, on the next serve.

In other games of Round 7, the Aces defeated Baddie-Z, 54-39; Spicey Locals beat Nesian Power, 44-37; and Topshakaz doubled up Rizzlers, 44-22.

The latest team standings have Bolley Ballerz at 6-1, followed by Spicey Locals and Topshakaz at 5-2. Nesian Power and Quest are at 4-3, while Border Control, Aces, and Baddie-Z sport 3-4 cards.

Chagii Fahn and Rizzlers bring up the rear at 1-5 and 0-7, respectively. (PR)

ferent experience. Coaching a team at such a young age is no easy job for Duenas. She explains that sometimes it is difficult to get students to listen to her, but at the end of the day it's all about working hard to get to where you want to be.

"This season, I feel like we had one of the best sportsmanship. It didn't matter if we came in first, second, or last, we always showed love to not only our teammates, but to other schools as well. My team also always had each other's backs and maintained a strong and healthy bond.

I feel like sportsmanship, and spreading love and positivity is a big factor within the paddling community because teamwork makes the dream work."

In one of KHS' mixed crew races, their team had been disqualified due to having an uneven number of boys and girls in a canoe. Duenas takes full responsibility for this mishap. She says, "You must make mistakes in order to be the best. You learn as you go, and you grow as you go."

A big portion of this season's paddlers are seniors and will no longer be racing. Next school year will allow all schools to reset and have an equal fight to win the plaque. Be sure to check in at Kilili Beach, at the same time next year to see if SSHS will step down as champions as the underdogs rise, or if they will remain on top.

only six more hits and left runners stranded on base from fly outs and ground outs.

### 670 Magas Babes 16, BDE 6

The 670 Magas Babes exploded against BDE and won, 16-6.

They were deadlocked, 6-6, at the end of the first inning, but only the Babes kept their momentum alive in the rest of the game.

Two more runs would score for the Babes in the second inning, and after a quick third and fourth, went on to score six more in the fifth to make it 14-6. After 14 unanswered runs, BDE flatlined as they failed to score in the last inning.

Meanwhile, the Babes added two more in the sixth and won by a margin of 10 runs.

Rachel Salalila, Pauline Camacho, Cat Dela Cruz, and

Connie San Nicolas scored two runs apiece for the Babes.

### Lady Sufa 18, Boleras 17

In a close game, Lady Sufa slipped past Boleras, 18-17.

After being neck-and-neck throughout the game, Lady Sufa walked it off in the last inning as they scored two runs, which was enough to take the W. They were down, 16-17 heading into the seventh, with Bridget Deleon Guerrero and Jaylina Borja scoring the two clutch runs.

Lady Sufa had a one-run lead by the end of the second, 8-7, but Boleras then scored three in the third to make it 8-10. However, Lady Sufa scored three of their own to lead by a run again, 11-10. They then tied it up, 16-16, in the sixth inning, with only one more chance for either team to take the win.

## TSUNAMI

From page 32

for such a long time. Tsunami Saipan will support you forever in your new journeys," he said.

### Kensuke conducts special training

Kimura and Tsunami Saipan were also graced recently by the presence of former national swimmer Kensuke Kimura, who is also the coach's son.

While on holiday back home, the 2014 Oceania Championships bronze medalist conducted a weeklong special training camp for the club, now dubbed Tsunami Athlete Course.

The younger Kimura swam for four years with the Chukyo University swimming team, a Division 1 school and one of the strongest teams in Japan.

"Tsunami swimmers were given extremely hard training much like in the college team level. Kensuke will also be there to support Isaiah at Junior Olympic at the end of this month."

In all, four swimmers completed the Tsunami Athlete Course conducted by Kensuke Kimura—Nunez, Jinang, Chen, and Ayumi Obligacion.

Coach Hiro thanked all the swimmers and their parents for a successful 2023 season. Tsunami Saipan also extended their acknowledgement to the Northern Marianas Sports Association, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, Kinpachi Restaurant, and the Tan family.

bounce back as Kanoa's defenses tightened and didn't let another goal slip by.

Shirley's FC, on the other hand, beat the Women's Development Team, 7-2.

In other results in the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League, MP United FC Pink silenced Paire FC, 4-0; Shirley's edged MP United FC Blue, 6-1; and Matansa FC blanked Kanoa FC, 2-0.

## OLD

From page 32

the second as they finally found openings in Kanoa's defenses with a goal by Sharlette Casil in the 41st minute. Another strong goal by Tsubakiko Joab nine minutes later cut the lead down by half, 2-4.

Kanoa came roaring back, however, and ballooned the lead, 4-2, after a goal by Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez. Paire couldn't

# Over \$150K in prizes up for grabs in NMC Golf Open

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Don't miss out on amazing prizes worth over \$150,000 at the Northern Marianas College Foundation's 19th NMC Golf Open set for Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24, at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

In a press conference held yesterday at the NMC Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero and NMC Foundation chair Vicente "Ben" Babauta invited golfers to join in on the foundation's signature event. Currently there are local golfers as well as from Tinian and Rota, golfers from Guam, and golfers from South Korea.

It's a two-day event with a fee of \$250, inclusive of golf, banquet, beverages for both days, ditty bags, and other items.

Play will take place on the East and West Courses of the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. The awards banquet will be during lunch after the last day of play at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's restaurant. The deadline to register is on Friday, March 22, at 12pm.

There are six flights, with \$800 for first-place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies flights. Second-place finishers will receive \$500, and third-place finishers will receive \$300.

Hole-in-one prizes are worth thousands of dollars, such as a



Prizes worth over \$150,000 are up for grabs at the Northern Marianas College Foundation's NMC Golf Open set for Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24 at the east and west courses of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

brand new 2024 Lexus RX350 from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a brand new 2023 Honda Civic Type R from Joeten Motors, \$10,000 shopping spree at Top Shelf Wine and Spirits, \$10,000 from Ambyth Shipping and Seafix Inc., and \$5,000 from Pacifica Insurance.

Along with all these, there are also raffle prizes up for grabs.

Currently, there are 83 sponsors and donors of the NMC Golf Open, and is open to any support from more companies.

Babauta said of the tournament, "This is going to be the largest in Micronesia. We encourage golfers to participate... We are looking forward to a full field. So far, we have a little over 150 players and looking forward to filling that in the next couple of weeks."

## Bank of Guam is Title Sponsor of Joeten Memorial Golf Classic

Bank of Guam has donated \$25,000 to become the exclusive Title Sponsor of the 2024 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic.



Classic. For 75 years, the Joeten Daidai Foundation alongside its family of companies have built a legacy of generosity that has helped to strengthen and uplift the CNMI community and so many within our region. We look forward to many, many more years of service alongside them as we all work to build a prosperous future for our people."

"Bank of Guam's support of the JMGC demonstrates the partnership and friendship throughout three generations between Bank of Guam and Joeten. We are honored and humbled that we continue to have their unwavering support." JMGC chair Shigeki O. Tenorio replied. (PR)



Joeten Memorial Golf Classic chair Shigeki O. Tenorio, left, poses with Joeten Enterprises, Inc. officials following Bank of Guam's \$25,000 donation to become the exclusive Title Sponsor of the 2024 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic.

"We are looking forward to a fabulous two-day event. It's going to be a beautiful day of golf outing. It's going to be a bit hot, but we'll hydrate a lot," said Babauta.

The goal of the tournament, Babauta said, "is to facilitate our fundraising efforts for the state-of-the-art campus and offices, and also workforce development for our community."

Deleon Guerrero for his part said, "This is an exciting time for the college. We are in growth mode. We're launching new initiatives, but more importantly, we're launching new facilities. But, as we grow, we see the need for additional support..."

He thanked the hard work of the NMC Foundation in helping supplement revenues, as well as doing a fantastic job to ensure that the golf tournament is going to be the "best of the best." He also thanked the golfers, supporters, and donors who helped make it possible.

In the press conference with Deleon Guerrero and Babauta were NMC vice president of Administration and Advancement Frankie Elliptico; NMC Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda; Foundation vice chair Joanna Pai; Foundation treasurer John Arroyo; and NMC Foundation members Roman Tudela and Michael Sheu.

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**Wizards blow big lead vs. Magic to tie franchise mark with 16th straight loss.**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Over \$150K in prizes up for grabs in NMC Golf Open.**

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**32** FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Southern sweeps va'a championships

By JENISHA DUBRALL  
jenisha.dubrall321@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

**A**fter many hard years of standing on the sidelines, watching other high school teams receive the winning plaque, Saipan Southern High School's girls crew is finally claiming their title as the Public School System's Interscholastic Outrigger Races 2023-2024 champions for the first time in history.

Not only did the Manta Rays win the girls races, but they dominated almost every race by placing first in all three race divisions (boys, girls, and mixed) after the final races last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Beach in Susupe. This prompted the young athletes and supporters of this year's va'a season calling this the "Southern sweep."



The Lady Rays clinched first in the finals of the 500m race with a time of 03:08.290. MHS settled for second with a time of 03:16.860 after they finished first in the prelims. KHS was

third with a time of 03:37.310. In the preliminary round of the girls' 500m race, the Lady Dolphins clinched first place with a time of 03:17.340 followed by the Lady Ayuyus at 03:23.940 and SSHS at 03:25.380.

First place belonged to SSHS in the 1,000m prelims and finals.

In the prelims, the Lady Rays came in first with a time of 06:43.860. The Lady Dolphins were second at 06:50.040, and the Ayuyus was third with a time of 07:18.560.

SSHS' final round time was 06:53.470. KHS beat out MHS



The Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays pose with all three plaques after dominating the 2023-2024 high school va'a races at Kilili Beach.

for second at 07:35.060. MHS was disqualified after they knocked down a flag during their second turn.

The Lady Mantas are made up of Aleeza Castro, Yasmeen Younis, Haani Passi, Zoe Lee, Ava Benavente, Martha Cabrera, Mai Peters, Reianah Parras, Gracie Mendiola, Jobelle Sapo, Danielle Formalejo, Aaliyah Sablan, and Lynaesha Tenorio.

The SSHS boys team swept the whole series with a perfect score of 85 points. KHS placed second with 43 points, while MHS finished third with 22.

In the 500m preliminaries, the Manta Rays finished at 02:47.440. The Ayuyus placed second at 02:55.630, while the Dolphins were third at 02:58.470.

In the finals, the Mantas finished first yet again with a time of 02:47.980, while KHS 02:54.630. MHS placed third at 03:05.110.

In the 1,000 prelims, the

Mantas sped into first the fastest with a time of 06:06.340, followed by KHS at 06:13.070. MHS was third at 06:18.960.

SSHS boys were first again in the 1,000m finals with a time of 05:56.960. KHS was second with a time 06:03.240. MHS was disqualified after knocking down their flags during the first and third turns.

The SSHS boys team consists of Tyler Andrew, Phillip Aldan, Yuling Chai, Endymion San Nicolas, Florencio Nekai, Matthew Peters, Drauzen Jicko, Techeltoech Cameron Yaoch, Santrez Damarlane, Caleb Sablan, Devin Camacho, and Trever Reyes.

SSHS was first yet again the mixed race division with a total of 65 points. MHS was second with 54 points, and third was KHS with 22.

The Mantas were first in 500m prelims with a time of 02:55.550, while the Dolphins

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freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and backstroke.

Members of this class are Younsuh Lee, Yubo Lin, Yesuh Lee, Andrea Ryu, and Lucy Shin.

Beginner Class is the first rung for prospective Tsunami Saipan swimmers and members just need to complete a fitness course. This class is composed of Apollo Arriola, Daniel Yu, Yo Suzuki, Chris Arriola, Angelo Pepito, Jonathan Park, Hye Yun Kim, and Xing Yu Wang.

In the team ranking, the Tsunami Saipan coach said Aleksenko topped the butterfly, backstroke, and freestyle with Watanabe taking the plum in the breaststroke.

"Kouki is still 15 years old. The CNMI really can expect

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Lady Rays celebrate their victory with a hug after the high school va'a championships.

## Tsunami Saipan unveils new swimmer rankings

By MARK RABAGO  
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EDITOR



The new year brings new individual rankings for Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center.

Head coach Hiroyuki "Hiro" Kimura said the 2024 Tsunami Athlete Course Roster is made up the Sensyu Class, Jyunsensyu Class, Ikusei Class, and Beginner Class. All are based on two recent time trials.

The Sensyu Class, made up of the club's top swimmers with swims of BB or above U.S. time standard, include Isaiah Aleksenko, Kevin Guerrero, Kean Pajarillaga, Kouki Watanabe, Justin Ma,

Richard Zhao, Shoko Litulumar, Maria Batallones, Sari Barman, and Maria Guerrero.

Jyun-sensyu class, meanwhile, are candidates for off-island competition and have reached B time and U.S. time standard in their swims. They include Haoyang Song, Simon Shindo, Seung Woo Lee,



Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center swimmers pose for a group photo after their recent team trials at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan pool.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Xing Chen Wang, Seung Min Jang, Leo Li, Dong Min Jang, Catalina Frink, Eva Shin, Sera Guerrero, Yoon Min Cho, and Gwen Retardo.

Ikusei Class are Tsunami Saipan members preparing for swim competition and should've completed training on the four strokes—

freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and backstroke.

Members of this class are Younsuh Lee, Yubo Lin, Yesuh Lee, Andrea Ryu, and Lucy Shin.

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Old B Bank, Kanoa, Shirley's undefeated in soccer leagues

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Old B Bank is undefeated in the Marianas Soccer League

2 with three wins, while Shirley's Football Club and Kanoa Football Club is undefeated in the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier Division) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League.

Old B Bank won their third game after blanking Paire FC, 3-0, last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

A lot of back-and-forth action resulted in a scoreless first half, with both teams unable to find holes in the other's defenses. Come the second half, a case of mistaken identity led to Paire scoring their own goal to put Old B Bank up by one.

Old B Bank then took that to their advantage and kept possession most of the time, which paid off with a goal in the 41st minute by Lin Xiao Feng.

Paire couldn't get a foothold of the ball long enough to do damage and let the time pass quietly. However, Old B

Bank still had more ammo up their sleeve and scorched their third goal towards the end of the match made by John Canape.



Paire went on to be scoreless and conceded as time ran out.

In other results that day, Shirley's FC won over MP United, 3-0 as well. Last Friday, Paire FC won over MP United via forfeit.

### Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier) Division

Kanoa FC defeated Paire FC, 4-2, in the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier Division) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League last Sunday.

Kanoa had a great start and capitalized on their early goals. By the 18th minute, they were up, 2-0, after Irish Pagarao and Desha Mendiola's attack at the net.

Paire were constantly trying to get away from their aggressor but could not maintain control in the first half. Then, another goal was made by Pagarao to make it 3-0.

Reprise came for Paire in

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Shirley's FC's Dianne Pablo, right, tries to dribble past a Paire player during one of their games in the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier Division) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League.

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